



## Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) H5N1 Personal Protective Equipment Recommendations May 29, 2024

### **Purpose and Scope**

The purpose of this document is to provide the minimum recommendations for appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) to wear and biosecurity procedures to follow when visiting an HPAI (H5N1) affected herd.

Ultimately the final decision on whether additional clothing is required, or additional procedures are necessary, is at the discretion of the local Incident Commander and Safety Officer based on perceived risk level and the activities being conducted.

**Note:** *It is highly recommended to conduct as many activities as possible off-site. USDA is entrusted to identify and prevent disease; we need to be vigilant and avoid spreading disease to other premises while conducting on-site work.*

### **Pre-visit Coordination**

Prior to visiting an affected farm, contact the appropriate [APHIS Area Veterinarian In Charge \(AVIC\)](#) and [State Animal Health Official \(SAHO\)](#) to coordinate the visit. This pre-visit communication and coordination will ensure all parties are aware of the planned visit, have information about the status of the farm, and can create a plan regarding the on-farm biosecurity procedures in accordance with the farm, state, and other agency procedures. Do not enter livestock or poultry premises if you are exhibiting any symptoms of influenza-like illness.

### **Arrival**

When arriving at an HPAI (H5N1) affected premises, personnel should perform [standard donning procedures](#) at their vehicle. Personnel should also plan ahead for their [doffing procedures](#) by establishing a clean/dirty line and setting up a Virkon® bath to wash boots when returning to the vehicle.

### **On-Site Personnel**

Persons working with or around cattle, including those working with or disposing of milk waste, that are suspected or confirmed with HPAI (H5N1) virus infection should wear PPE when in direct or close contact (within about 6 feet) with animals, animal feces, litter, milk, or materials known to be or potentially contaminated with HPAI (H5N1) viruses.

Recommended PPE includes:

- Properly fitted unvented or indirectly vented safety goggles or a face shield (if there is risk of liquid splash onto the respirator)
- Disposable gloves
- Boots or boot covers

- NIOSH Approved<sup>®1</sup> particulate respirator (e.g., N95<sup>®1</sup> filtering facepiece respirator)
- Disposable fluid-resistant coveralls (i.e., blue Tyvek)
- Disposable head cover or hair cover
- Perform thorough hand washing<sup>2</sup> before putting on and taking off PPE

Persons on-site who are completing epidemiological questionnaires and surveys who will not have direct contact with sick or dead animals, animal feces, litter, milk, or materials known to be or potentially contaminated with HPAI (H5N1) viruses should follow all the above PPE recommendations, with the caveat that cloth washable coveralls are an acceptable alternative to disposable fluid-resistant coveralls (i.e., blue Tyvek).

### **Departure**

When leaving an HPAI (H5N1) affected premises, personnel should perform [standard doffing](#) of PPE upon returning to their vehicle. This includes:

- Thoroughly cleaning boots in a Virkon<sup>®</sup> bath **and**
- Spraying shoes with Lysol spray prior to entering the vehicle.
- Wash hands thoroughly if washing facilities are available; use hand sanitizer when facilities are not available.

### **Truck Wash and Return to Hotel**

After leaving an HPAI (H5N1) affected premises, personnel should wash their vehicle at the nearest car/truck wash, ensuring the wash includes cleaning of the vehicle undercarriage and tires.

Personnel should then travel directly to their residence or hotel to shower and change clothes.

### **Downtime**

Wait 72 hours between visiting affected premises and any other premises.

### **Influenza-like Illness**

Employees who worked on an affected farm should monitor their health carefully during mobilization and for 10 days from the end of their mobilization. New onset or worsening of any of the following signs and symptoms should be reported to the supervisor or Safety Officer:

- Fever (Temperature of 100°F [37.8°C] or greater) or feeling feverish/chills
- Cough
- Sore throat
- Difficulty breathing/Shortness of breath
- Eye tearing, redness, or irritation

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<sup>1</sup> *Attribution Statement.* N95 and NIOSH Approved are certification marks of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services registered in the United States and several international jurisdictions.

<sup>2</sup> Hand sanitizer may be used to thoroughly clean hands if washing facilities are not available.

- Headaches
- Runny or stuffy nose
- Muscle or body aches
- Diarrhea

**Additional references**

- [https://www.aphis.usda.gov/sites/default/files/ppe\\_recommendations.pdf](https://www.aphis.usda.gov/sites/default/files/ppe_recommendations.pdf)
- <https://www.osha.gov/avian-flu/control-prevention>
- <https://www.osha.gov/avian-flu/standards>