



## PREVENTION FOR YOUR BIRDS: Biosecurity Steps

- 1. Keep your distance.** Limit contact between your birds and wild birds.
- 2. Keep it clean.** Always wash your hands before and after being near your birds. You can pick up germs from anything in the birds' living area.
- 3. Don't bring disease home.** Isolate new birds for at least 30 days and keep birds who have been to an exhibition separated from the flock for two weeks after the event.
- 4. Don't borrow disease from your neighbors.** Don't share equipment or supplies with other poultry owners.
- 5. Know the warning signs.** Check your birds and let an adult know if something is wrong.
- 6. Report sick birds.** If your birds are sick or dying, ask an adult to call your extension office, veterinarian or the state veterinarian.



## SAFE HANDLING

Poultry, including chickens, ducks, geese and turkeys, carry many germs, like bacteria and viruses. One bacteria they carry is salmonella – which is zoonotic, meaning it can cause illness in people. Disease can spread to people after touching birds or anything in the area where birds live.

### Safety Tips for You

- Always **wash your hands** with soap and water after touching birds or anything in the birds' living area.
- Don't eat or drink around poultry.
- Don't let poultry live inside your house, especially in the areas where you cook or eat.
- Keep the shoes you wear around poultry outside to avoid bringing germs into the house.
- Don't kiss your birds or snuggle them to your face.
- Clean poultry equipment outdoors.
- Refrigerate eggs after collection and cook them thoroughly before eating.



Division of Animal Health  
1320 Research Park Drive  
Manhattan, KS 66502  
Phone: 785-564-6601  
[agriculture.ks.gov/animalhealth](http://agriculture.ks.gov/animalhealth)



# POULTRY TESTING

## For Avian Influenza and Pullorum

# AVIAN INFLUENZA

Avian influenza, or bird flu, is a respiratory disease in birds. There are two main types of bird flu:

1. **Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI)** is severe, easily spread and can cause illness in other species.
2. **Low Pathogenic Avian Influenza (LPAI)** is mild and birds may seem healthy, but it can mutate to become HPAI.

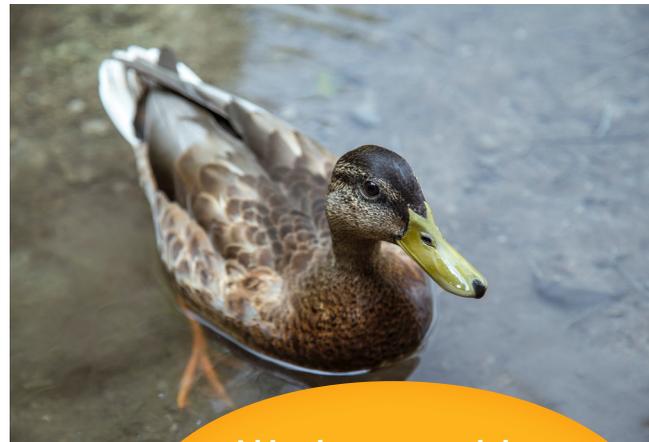
Bird flu can be spread from contact with sick birds, migratory waterfowl, or even from people and equipment.

## Symptoms of avian influenza:

- Lack of energy or appetite
- Lower egg production
- Swelling of the head, comb, eyelids, wattles or legs
- Purple coloring of the wattles, comb or legs
- Diarrhea
- Runny nose, coughing or sneezing



Did you know? Turkeys, ducks and geese can also be affected by avian influenza.



Wild birds can spread disease to your poultry. Wild birds often don't show any signs of being sick, but can still spread disease. Be sure to have a secure pen to keep your birds safe.

# PULLORUM

Salmonella is a bacteria that causes the disease pullorum and can result in the death of many chicks.

Birds most commonly get sick by eating eggs infected with the pullorum bacteria. Other methods include contact with infected birds and dirty food or water.

## Signs of disease in young poultry:

- Huddling near heat source
- Weakness
- White diarrhea
- White fecal paste around vent

Adult poultry may carry the pullorum disease without showing any clinical signs, which may result in death.

## Why test?

Avian influenza and pullorum tests help veterinarians find sick birds earlier, prevent the spread of disease and protect other birds. If birds get sick with avian influenza or pullorum, they could die.

Testing is important to guarantee birds are healthy before going to exhibitions. This prevents pullorum and avian influenza from spreading to other birds and keeps your poultry healthy and safe.

While the U.S. commercial poultry facilities are pullorum free, this disease may still be present in backyard flocks.

In an outbreak of poultry disease, many birds die. Limiting the sale of birds and eggs helps stop the spread of disease.



Chicks are at high risk for disease. Be sure to purchase birds and eggs for hatching from a National Poultry Improvement Plan certified flock.