



Checklist for Personnel and Visitors

Whether you're part of a large commercial enterprise or keep birds as a hobby, you and everyone who cares for your flock have a role in keeping the Nation's poultry healthy. To prevent the spread of disease, limit access to your birds and property. Everyone who comes into contact with your flock, including visitors and family members, should use personal protective equipment to maintain biosecurity.

If you see or suspect anything unusual, call your flock supervisor, veterinarian, or cooperative extension office right away. Use this form to record phone numbers for contacts in your area. The earlier you act, the easier it is to contain the disease to a single flock.

 Check the list on the back for tips to help keep your flocks healthy.



Report Sick Birds

If you see signs of illness, take action right away!

Veterinarian

Cooperative Extension Office

State Veterinarian/Animal or Poultry Diagnostic Lab

USDA

Phone Number

866.536.7593





✓ Checklist: Tips To Help Keep Your Flocks Healthy

This checklist is a general guide to practicing good biosecurity, but if you have a site-specific biosecurity plan, please follow it. Commercial growers should be sure their site-specific plans follow the National Poultry Improvement Plan biosecurity principles.

- Maintain routines** so that everyone who comes into contact with your flock follows the same procedures. Don't be afraid to change these procedures if you see a problem or if something's just not effective or practical. There's always room for improvement.
- Offer regular training on biosecurity practices** to your current employees and any new hires. Training increases compliance and helps make sure everyone follows procedures consistently.
- Use personal protective equipment** like washable footwear or shoe covers, gloves, coveralls, and hair coverings when handling birds. These items should be worn only while caring for your poultry—never elsewhere—and be changed between bird enclosures to prevent disease spread.
- Give visitors and family members** personal protective equipment to wear when they are in contact with your birds.
- Always ask visitors** if they've been in contact with wild birds or pet birds or if they have their own poultry. If so, they should not go near your flock. Some avian disease agents can survive in a person's nose, without actually infecting the person, for 2 days.
- Clean and disinfect equipment** to remove feces, feathers, and litter. Disease agents can survive for months inside these organic materials, so make sure nothing is tracked into or out of poultry houses or pens.
- Do not share tools, poultry supplies, or lawn and garden equipment** with other flock owners or neighbors. If you must, be sure to clean and disinfect the items before they reach your property and before returning them.
- Know the warning signs of poultry disease**, like changes in how much your birds eat or drink, increased deaths in your flock, or general malaise.

Did you know?

Personal protective equipment stops disease spread in two crucial ways: 1, it covers up any germs you're already carrying, and 2, it traps any new germs you've picked up so you don't spread them to the next enclosure.

For more information about how to keep your flocks healthy, follow **Defend the Flock** on **Facebook** and **Twitter** and visit www.aphis.usda.gov/animalhealth/defendtheflock.

