



# Biosecurity Practices to Minimize Risk of Spreading Avian Diseases

## Poultry Exhibitors

Biosecurity means doing everything you can to protect your birds against disease. Standard biosecurity practices are important for California's poultry community at all times. Here are some recommendations for poultry exhibitors:

### Before the Exhibition

- House poultry indoors or at minimum, within a screened area.
- Remove food and water sources that attract pests such as wild waterfowl/birds, rodents, and insects.
- House different species (e.g. chickens, turkeys, ducks, and geese) separate from each other.
- Avoid visits to other backyard flocks or poultry operations and restrict visitor access to your birds.
- Avoid direct contact with wildlife, especially wild birds and water waterfowl.
- Keep tools and equipment clean and disinfected.
- Clean cages, food, and water containers daily.
- Wash hands and disinfect shoes after working with birds.
- Consider having dedicated boots and clothing for working with your birds.
- Monitor and document the health of your birds daily.

**If your birds show any sign of illness, please do not bring your birds to the exhibition nor attend yourself.**

- Become familiar with the signs of disease in birds:
  - Sudden death,
  - Wheezing, coughing, nasal discharge,
  - Green watery diarrhea,
  - Depression,
  - Decreased feed intake,
  - Drop in egg production or egg quality,
  - Swelling and/or discoloration of eyes, head, neck, combs, or wattles, and/or
  - Tremors, circling, drooping wings, twisting of head and neck.

To report an unusual number of sick or dead birds, call:

**Sick Bird Hotline  
(866) 922-2473**

- Immediately isolate sick birds to a pen or area that is away from all other birds.
- Handle sick birds after tending to healthy birds.
- Ask the exhibition organizer about appropriate disease prevention measures and any specific actions that may be required if a bird becomes sick at the show.



### During the Exhibition

- Clean cages, food, water containers daily.
- Do not share equipment with other exhibitors; if equipment must be shared, make sure it is cleaned and disinfected between uses.
- Avoid contact with other birds during the event.
- Restrict bird contact to essential personnel, and
- Observe birds daily for signs of illness.
  - Report any clinical signs to the designated exhibition veterinarian, poultry health inspector, or appropriate exhibition staff.
  - Immediately remove sick birds from the exhibition area.
  - If your bird(s) show clinical signs of a reportable disease such as avian influenza or virulent Newcastle disease, testing (e.g. blood samples or swab samples) may be required and those results will be shared with the State Veterinarian's Office.

## After the Exhibition

- Refrain from attending another event with your birds for *at least* two weeks after returning from an exhibition,
- Isolate and observe birds for illness after returning home and before allowing contact with other animals,
  - The isolation/observation period for clinical signs of illness should be no fewer than 30 days.
  - Tend to the healthy birds that were kept at home first and then later to the isolated birds that attended the event.
- Clean and disinfect equipment, clothing, shoes, and vehicles/trailers that were at the exhibition,
  - Allow all cleaned and disinfected items to dry completely before re-use or restocking.
- If exhibitors or family members develop influenza-like illness, consult your healthcare provider as soon as possible:
  - Inform your health care provider of close contact with birds.
  - Ill people should avoid all contact with birds until they are fever-free for at least 24-hours without the use of fever-reducing medications.



Photos courtesy of: Dr. Everardo Mendes (front), Pixabay (back left), and Camille Carey (back right)



## Examples of Disinfectant Products\*

- **1-Stroke Environ™** - germicidal detergent
- **Tek-trol™** - Disinfectant cleaner concentrate
- **Nolvasan®S** - Chlorhexidine diacetate
- **Clorox Regular Bleach** - EPA: 5873-50 (sodium hypochlorite 6.0%)
- **Lysol Power & Fresh Multi-purpose cleaner®** - EPA: 777-66 spray
- **Purell®** - hand sanitizer

*\*Disclaimer: Trade names used in this publication do not constitute a guarantee, warranty, or endorsement of the products, nor criticize similar products not mentioned. CDFA bears no responsibility for liability resulting from the use of the products. These procedures are not guaranteed to prevent highly contagious diseases from affecting your birds; however, they will reduce risks.*

### CDFA Animal Health Branch

Headquarters - (916) 900-5002

Redding District - (530) 225-2140

Modesto District - (209) 491-9350

Tulare District - (559) 685-3500

Ontario District - (909) 947-5932

**USDA-APHIS-VS** (916) 854-3950 or (877) 741-3690

For more information, please click the following:

[Animal Health Branch](#)  
[Avian Health Program](#)