



Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) Exposure Protocol

What you need to know.

How is HPAI spread from a bird to a person?

HPAI can be spread through saliva, mucous and feces of a bird. This can happen when the virus gets into a person's nose or mouth or if it is inhaled from the air. A person working with birds who are sick with HPAI can easily become infected without proper personal protective equipment (PPE).

What is the Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH) doing to monitor HPAI in humans?

When the OSDH is notified of someone who has possibly been exposed to HPAI they are added to a monitoring list. The person who has had possible exposure will receive a call from an Epidemiologist who will ask a series of questions.

What groups of people may need monitoring?

Anyone who has been in contact with a bird that has tested positive for HPAI will be monitored. This includes but is not limited to the following groups:

- Farm owners, workers, and families
- Backyard flock owners and family members
- Corporate/producer employees
- State Dept. of Agriculture employees who may have been onsite
- Veterinarians or laboratorians who examined sick or dead birds, took swabs or helped in the confirmation of HPAI
- Other state government involved in the response (DOH, etc.)
- Federal government (USDA) and federal employees on the ground during the response
- Wildlife service and/or wildlife rehabilitation personnel who have had contact with HPAI infected wild birds

What will the Epidemiologist ask a person who has had possible exposure to HPAI?

The Epi-On-Call will ask questions about where the person was exposed (ex. City and State), what they were doing at the time of exposure, where they returned home to (ex. County in Oklahoma), if they were wearing personal protective equipment (PPE), and if they are currently having symptoms. The Epidemiologist will call again in 10 days to ensure that the exposed person has had no symptoms since the original conversation.

What symptoms should an exposed person monitor for?

Symptoms of HPAI that an exposed person should be monitoring for include conjunctivitis (eye discharge), fever, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, muscle or body aches, headache, fatigue, shortness of breath, difficult breathing, diarrhea, nausea, vomiting or seizures.

What do I do if I have had symptoms of Flu after being exposed to HPAI?

If a person begins to have symptoms of Flu after being exposed to HPAI, they should report symptoms as they arise to the Epidemiologist on Call at 405-426-8710 so testing can be arranged.