

Health Information for People in Contact with Avian Influenza H5N2 Infected Flocks

The risk of getting sick from the virus if you have cared for infected birds is very low.

- No one has gotten sick with this strain of avian influenza in Minnesota or in the U.S.
- However, similar highly pathogenic H5 viruses have made people sick in other parts of the world.

Even though the risk is low, there are some things you can do to stay healthy.

- Limit contact with the infected flock(s).
- Use personal protective equipment (PPE) when working with every flock on the farm, both flocks that have tested positive and negative. PPE should include:
 - Washable or disposable long sleeved coveralls or Tyvek suit
 - Rubber boots that can be disinfected or disposable plastic boots. (Replace if torn)
 - Washable or disposable hat or Tyvek suit hood
 - Latex or nitrile gloves, but you may use cotton gloves underneath. (Replace if torn)
 - Goggles or safety glasses
 - A face mask
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth while working.
- When your work is complete, remove your PPE and wash hands with soap and water, or use alcohol-based hand gel until hands can be washed.

If you had contact with sick birds without protective equipment, you may be advised to take an antiviral medication called Tamiflu.

Contact with sick birds includes:

- Sampling sick birds
- Picking up dead birds
- Helping with examination of dead birds (necropsy)
- Checking feeders and waterers in barns with sick birds
- Preparing for depopulation: crowding birds, moving equipment
- Any close contact with sick birds

The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) will be contacting you to do a short interview about your exposures and to answer your questions. We would like to contact you every day for 10 days by phone, text or email to ask if you have an eye infection or a cough, fever, sore throat or runny nose. Having these symptoms does not necessarily mean you are sick with Avian Influenza H5N2, but we will help get testing and care if needed.

If you have questions, please call MDH at 651-201-5414. You can also get more information on Avian Influenza at www.health.state.mn.us/divs/idepc/diseases/flu/current/h5n2.html.



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