



**DEFEND THE FLOCK**  
**Biosecurity on a Budget**  
**Webinar Questions & Answers**  
**March 2024**

**Will [biosecurity measures] be helpful for institutions which may or have poultry at their facilities?**

The principles would be applicable to any poultry owners.

**Higher education institutions are working on learning more about birds since the USDA updated changes.**

Additional information and free resources from USDA APHIS are available at:  
<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-disease-information/avian/defend-the-flock-program/defend-the-flock-program>

**[Are there] any producer costs [associated with] testing or investigating?**

Testing is free for producers if you report sick birds to USDA. You may be charged by a veterinarian if you report the illness to them.

**How many days [and/or] weeks do you believe [HPAI] stays in the environment at the right temperature?**

This is highly dependent on the temperature, humidity, and relative contamination in the environment. Here are links to a couple of research papers that discuss the survivability of avian influenza virus in the environment:

- <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3784916/>
- <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5541213/#:~:text=The%20tissues%20were%20stored%20at,and%2020%20days%20in%20liver>

**Mammalian species have been reported as becoming infected with Avian Influenza, would they be a major factor in [the] spread?**

The finding of HPAI in mammals is not unexpected given that many species are susceptible to influenza viruses, and wildlife often come into direct contact with wild birds. Many of these species were likely infected after consuming dead birds that were infected with HPAI. Most mammals appear to be dead-end hosts, meaning they do not spread HPAI to other susceptible species.

**[The spread/detections] appears to follow migratory channels, is there any way to plan for that?**

It is expected that there will be a higher rate of HPAI infections during the Spring and Fall migratory seasons. You can get additional information about the U.S. migratory bird flyways from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to know whether you are located in the direct migratory path of birds traveling to their seasonal homes.

**What type of sanitizer can you use when you are cleaning water and food containers?**

A water and bleach solution is recommended. It will kill viruses and bacteria.

**If an older bird is purchased, how long should those adult birds be quarantined before safe integration?**

Minimum recommendation is 30 days, but longer is better. There is no length of quarantine time that will guarantee the adult birds are healthy and not carrying an infectious disease before integrating into the rest of the flock. Birds can appear asymptomatic with several poultry pathogens, but they can still shed those diseases to the rest of the flock.

**Is it okay to purchase adult birds from a swap meet if they will not be mixed with other poultry?**

The recommendation would be to ensure they are separate from other poultry. Quarantine the birds from all animals for at least 10 days to ensure the adult bird does not have any illness that could spread to your other animals or pets.

**You mentioned 10% bleach is an effective disinfectant? Where is it best procured? Household bleach is typically around 3-6% in my experience.**

This reference was to a 10% bleach solution: 1 part household bleach, 9 parts water.

**Is HPAI going to be a concern well after migration, as in through the summer?**

Spring is right around the corner. As wild birds travel north to their seasonal homes, we may see another surge of cases. We have seen a small surge in the number of HPAI cases recently, as wild birds are migrating south to their winter nesting grounds. USDA continues to work closely with state animal health officials on surveillance efforts to look for the virus in commercial, backyard, and wild birds, and continues to encourage all bird owners to practice strong biosecurity.

**[Do you have a] recommendation for a dry foot bath?**

A bleach and water solution will work for all sanitization needs.

**[What is the recommended] bleach to water ratio?**

10% bleach, which would be 1 part bleach, 9 parts water.

**Would dry chlorine bleach work in a footbath?**

Some studies indicate that a dry chlorine bleach disinfectant may be effective at eliminating Avian Influenza and may be more effective than some liquid disinfectants utilized in footbaths.

- <https://www.jstor.org/stable/26432222>

**[Do you have] any recommendations for a dry foot bath for those who don't want to get their feet wet or bleach on their shoes? I have heard of them at poultry facilities but don't know what specific name or type of product was being used.**

Check out this EPA list of disinfectants effective against Avian Influenza to find a product that may work for you:

- <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/epas-registered-antimicrobial-products-effective-against-avian-influenza#for>