



# AVIAN INFLUENZA

## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

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# WHAT IS AVIAN INFLUENZA?

Avian Influenza (AI) is a disease which affects birds. Some strains of AI are notifiable, therefore it is an offence not to report any suspected cases to the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA).

There are two types of AI:

- **Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI)** is the more serious type and it is often fatal in birds.
- **Low Pathogenic Avian Influenza (LPAI)** is usually less serious and can cause mild breathing problems, but affected birds will not always show clear signs of infection. The severity of LPAI depends on the type of bird and whether it has any other illnesses.

There are a number of strains of AI, and they are determined by the haemagglutinin (H) and neuraminidase (N) proteins in the structure of the virus, e.g. H7N7, H5N1.

## ROUTES OF TRANSMISSION

AI spreads from bird to bird by direct contact or through contaminated body fluids and faeces.

The disease can spread:

- Between birds in the same environment.
- From the wild bird population.
- By fomites such as people, vehicles, equipment or bedding materials which are contaminated with infected body fluids or faeces.

## CLINICAL SIGNS

The main clinical signs of HPAI in birds are:

- Sudden mortality of up to 100% (turkeys in particular can be severely and rapidly affected by HPAI).
- Severe egg drop/stop in production.
- Respiratory distress, such as gaping beak.
- Swollen head, including sinuses.
- Blue discolouration of neck and throat.
- Loss of appetite.
- Coughing, sneezing, gurgling, rattling.
- Diarrhoea.
- Nervous signs such as head and body shaking.

## IF YOUR BIRDS SHOW SIGNS OF AI

AI is a notifiable disease. If you suspect AI in your birds you must report it to your private vet or directly to APHA immediately by calling 03000 200 301 if you're in England or 03003 038 268 if you're in Wales.

Find out more about how to spot and report signs of AI in poultry at [gov.uk/guidance/avian-influenza-bird-flu](http://gov.uk/guidance/avian-influenza-bird-flu)



This leaflet features QR codes to help you find more detailed information online. Simply grab your phone and use the camera function to scan the code and follow the link.

Scan the QR code to find the latest AI information and advice on the NFU website:



## RISK TO PUBLIC HEALTH

The AI virus changes frequently, creating new strains. In rare cases when there is close contact between humans and infected birds, some strains of AI can be transmitted to humans - this is known as zoonosis.

The Food Standards Agency (FSA) has said AI poses a very low food safety risk for UK consumers. Properly cooked poultry and poultry products, including eggs, are safe to eat.

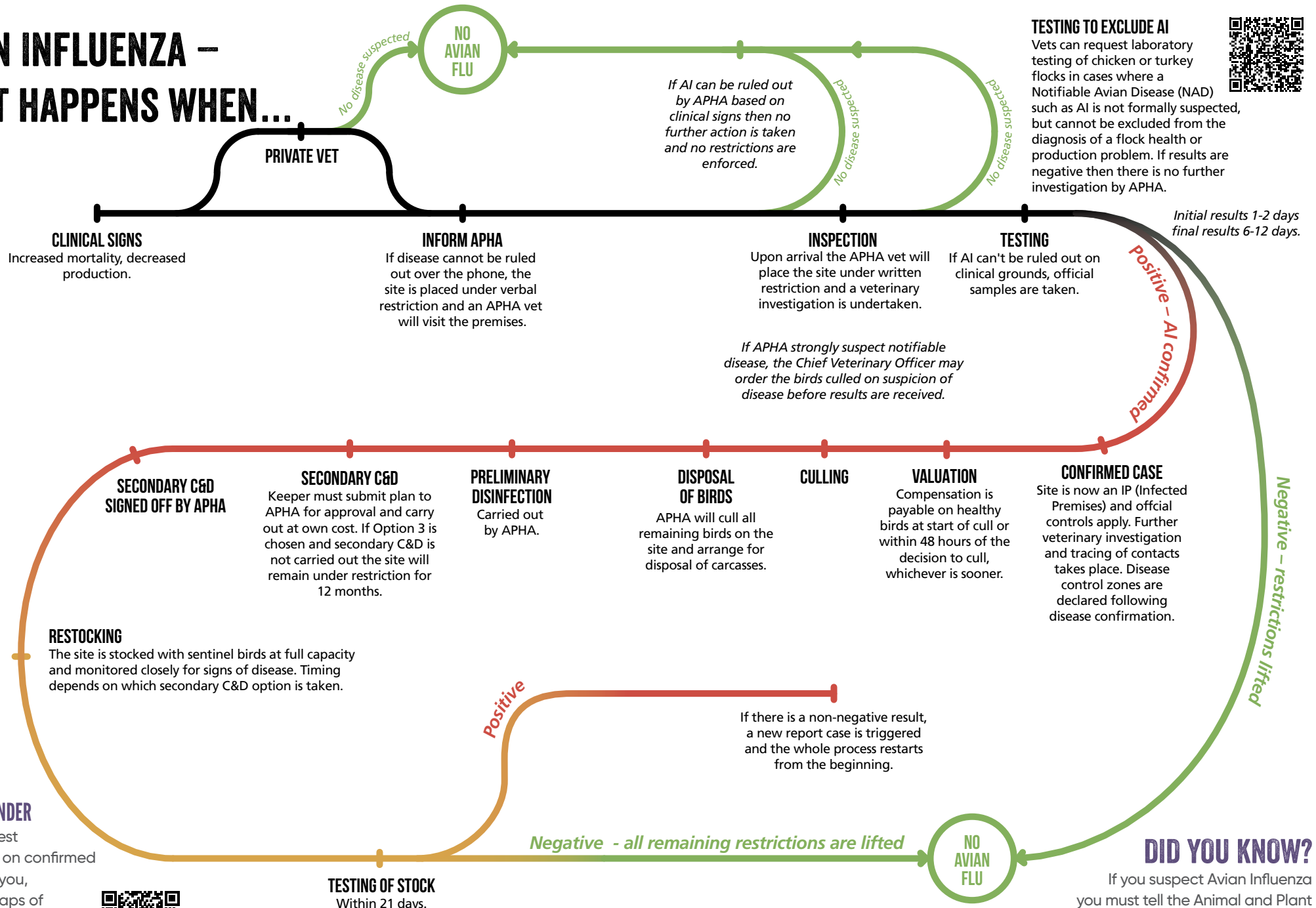
Poultry workers, vets, contractors and other people engaged in disease control activities will be offered personal protection equipment, and may be offered seasonal flu vaccinations and antiviral therapy when AI is confirmed, dependent on assessment by UKHSA (UK Health Security Agency).

## AI IN WILD BIRDS

If you find a dead wild bird, you are encouraged to report it to Defra online at [gov.uk/guidance/report-dead-wild-birds](http://gov.uk/guidance/report-dead-wild-birds) or by phoning their helpline 03459 335577. Not all dead birds reported will be collected; each case will be triaged and dealt with according to the species and number of birds. Wild birds that test positive for AI are reported on gov.uk here:



# AVIAN INFLUENZA – WHAT HAPPENS WHEN....



**TESTING TO EXCLUDE AI**  
Vets can request laboratory testing of chicken or turkey flocks in cases where a Notifiable Avian Disease (NAD) such as AI is not formally suspected, but cannot be excluded from the diagnosis of a flock health or production problem. If results are negative then there is no further investigation by APHA.



## NFU CASE FINDER

Find the latest information on confirmed cases near you, including maps of disease control zones and links to declarations on NFU Online.



## DID YOU KNOW?

If you suspect Avian Influenza you must tell the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA). Failure to do so is an offence - so either report to your private veterinary surgeon, who will contact APHA, or contact the rural helpline directly on 03000 200 301 if you're in England or 03003 038 268 if you're in Wales.

## WHAT HAPPENS ON YOUR PREMISES WHILST AN INVESTIGATION IS CARRIED OUT

APHA will undertake an investigation and if Avian Influenza cannot be ruled out on clinical grounds, it will take samples from birds for testing. It will also put disease control measures in place until the results are known. Measures include:

- Placing the site under restriction – this prohibits the movements of poultry, other captive birds, eggs, other livestock species, vehicles and people to and from the premises. Although some essential movements may be licensed subject to certain conditions (e.g. people off the premises, feed deliveries).
- A means of cleansing and disinfection (C&D) using an approved disinfectant must be provided at the entrances and exits of the premises and of buildings which house poultry or other captive birds.
- Warning signs must be erected at appropriate places on the premises.
- Examination of production records.
- Housing or isolation of poultry and other captive birds.
- Following an epidemiological assessment of the site, other livestock species on the same holding may also be tested for AI on a case-by-case basis.

### THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

Location for vehicle washing?

Have you considered the welfare of birds if they have to be housed, or are held on farm longer than expected?

Is your visitor book up to date and capturing the right information?

If you live on site, is there an alternative access route you and your family can use if disease is suspected or confirmed?

## DISEASE CONTROL ZONES

If AI is confirmed, disease control zones will be declared around the infected premises. Depending on the virus strain and the type of premises, these zones may include movement restrictions and enhanced biosecurity measures for all poultry premises within those zones. If any part of your holding falls within a zone under restriction then you must follow all restrictions applied to that zone across the whole site. If parts of a single holding are in two separate zones then the whole of the site is considered to be in the zone with the highest level of restriction.

Within the zones, there will be a ban on bird gatherings and a ban on the release of gamebirds.

### HPAI in captive birds and poultry:

A 3km Protection Zone (PZ) and 10km Surveillance Zone (SZ) will be declared around the infected premises and movement licences will be required for certain activities within those zones. In some cases, where the premises is non-commercial and/or classified as non-poultry, Defra or Welsh Government may declare a 3km Captive Bird (Monitoring) Controlled Zone (CBMCZ) instead of a PZ and SZ and movement restrictions won't apply within the zone.

### LPAL in captive birds and poultry:

A 1km LPAL Restricted Zone (LPAL RZ) will be declared.



## PROTECTION ZONE (PZ)

### The keeper must:

- Keep poultry and other captive birds in their buildings or isolated from other poultry, captive birds and wild birds.
- Ensure that all carcasses that are not seized or disposed of by a veterinary inspector are disposed of in accordance with their instructions.
- Not move poultry meat, carcasses, litter, eggs, other livestock or animals within or outside of the zone, except under licence.
- Adhere to strict biosecurity on and off the farm.



## THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

Consider the implications of an outbreak at different stages in the cycle, e.g. feed requirements, storage of eggs, live poultry or egg movements on or off site.

Is your processor/packing centre/hatchery designated to receive poultry or eggs from within AI disease control zones?

Do you have a separate CPH for your poultry business?

Are your visitor records up to date?

Do you have other enterprises on the farm e.g. livestock, farm shoots?

## CONFIRMED CASES

Find the latest information and declarations for confirmed cases of AI in poultry and captive birds in England and Wales on the government websites:

England



Wales



AVIAN  
INFLUENZA  
CONTROL  
MEASURE  
SURVEILLANCE  
ZONE AHEAD

More information on what to do in AI disease control zones is available on NFU Online:





## SURVEILLANCE ZONE (SZ)

### The keeper must:

- Not move poultry, other captive birds or mammals (including pigs, sheep, dairy cows and cattle) to or from any premises where poultry or other captive birds are kept, except under licence (exceptions apply for pet animals).
- Not move carcasses, litter or eggs within or outside of the zone unless under licence.
- Table eggs may be sent direct to wholesale or retail premises without a licence.
- Keep a record of all poultry or eggs entering or leaving premises within the zone, except where eggs are being moved direct to retail premises or onwards from such premises.
- Pack any eggs going to a designated packing centre in disposable packaging or packaging which is cleansed and disinfected.
- Anyone involved in the transport or marketing of poultry or eggs must also make a record of those that are transported or marketed.
- Record any individuals visiting the premises where poultry or other captive birds are kept. Exceptions include zoos or wildlife parks (providing the public has no access to areas where birds are kept) and on public rights of way.
- Ensure appropriate biosecurity measures are in place for people, equipment and vehicles entering or leaving premises where poultry, other captive birds or eggs are kept – disinfectants must be from the Defra approved list.
- Ensure anyone who moves any poultry, other captive birds, meat, feed, manure, slurry, litter or any other thing which may be contaminated cleanses and disinfects the vehicle and any equipment used to transport that thing as soon as it is unloaded.
- Not release game birds.

## LIFTING ZONES

Before disease control zones can be merged or lifted, APHA have to carry out surveillance and disease control activity. The minimum time period before a PZ can be merged with an SZ is 21 days from the date preliminary disinfection is carried out on the infected premises (IP), with the SZ able to be lifted after a minimum of 28 days. This can take significantly longer if there are delays to disease surveillance activity or if further AI cases are confirmed within the zones.

## AVIAN INFLUENZA PREVENTION ZONE

During AI outbreaks in poultry and captive birds, the UK government and devolved administrations may introduce an Avian Influenza Prevention Zone (AIPZ) on a regional or national basis which requires all poultry keepers to exercise stringent biosecurity measures and record keeping. Depending on the current risk level to poultry and captive birds, this can also be amended by the government to include mandatory regional or national housing measures.

**You can check to see if you are in a disease control zone using APHA's interactive map:**



## AI IN OTHER LIVESTOCK

AI is a notifiable disease for other livestock such as pigs, cattle, sheep and dairy cows. Movement of livestock present on a site where AI is suspected or confirmed in poultry will be restricted and animals will be tested for disease. This can cause significant disruption to other enterprises on the site.

Signs of AI in mammals include respiratory and neurological disease. In dairy cows, signs of AI may include tacky or dry dung, a sudden drop in feed intake or milk production, unexplained thickening of milk, coupled with signs of mastitis.

If you suspect signs of AI in other livestock you must report it to your vet or directly to APHA by calling 03000 200 301 if you're in England or 03003 038 268 if you're in Wales.



## THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

Do you have multiple enterprises on the same CPH? Where possible, poultry enterprises should be on a separate CPH to other business activities. Guidance on how to apply for a separate CPH for your poultry enterprise is available on gov.uk:



## HOUSING MEASURES

All poultry and captive birds within a 3km Protection Zone or Captive Bird (Monitoring) Controlled Zone must be housed.

The UK government and devolved administrations can also implement national or regional housing measures to help mitigate the risk of AI in poultry and captive birds. When housing measures are declared, poultry and captive bird keepers must house their birds until such measures are lifted. In England, the free range status of eggs and poultry meat from temporarily housed birds which would normally be free ranging is protected for the duration of any mandatory housing measures. This means producers can continue marketing their produce as free range until housing measures are lifted again. This is also the case for free range eggs laid in Wales and we understand equivalent rules for Welsh poultry meat are likely to come into force in November 2025.

If poultry keepers choose to house their birds outside of any mandatory housing measures, they may not be able to market their eggs or poultry meat as free range.

**NFU members can contact NFU CallFirst on 0370 845 8458 for further advice.**

## MOVEMENT RESTRICTIONS & LICENSING

The exact restrictions imposed will depend on the strain of AI confirmed and will be detailed within the declaration for each disease control zone. Certain activities, including (but not limited to) movement of live poultry and other livestock, as well as on-farm slaughter will require a movement licence from APHA.

Licences are only available if the government is content that allowing the movement will not put disease control at risk and there are legal provisions to issue licences.

Movements of poultry and poultry products (including eggs) starting or ending in a PZ or SZ will need to be licensed by a veterinary inspector. Based on previous outbreaks in the UK, examples of when movement licences have been required include but are not limited to:

- Poultry for immediate slaughter at a designated slaughterhouse.
- Day-old chicks hatched from eggs produced in a PZ or SZ or from eggs which came into contact with such eggs.
- Hatching eggs to a designated hatchery (the hatchery must be operated in such a way that eggs from outside the PZ or SZ do not come into contact with eggs or day-old chicks from within the PZ or SZ).
- Eggs to a designated egg packing centre (they must be packed in disposable packaging or packaging that can be cleansed and disinfected).
- Eggs to an egg processing plant.
- Eggs or carcasses for disposal or diagnosis.
- On-farm slaughter of poultry within a PZ or SZ (including seasonal poultry).
- Spreading or moving poultry litter/manure/slurry originating in a PZ or SZ.

**APHA requires at least 5 working days notice to issue licences** so plan ahead and apply in good time to avoid issues. When disease control zones are first declared it may not be possible to give 5 days notice for urgent movements, in which case make sure you highlight the reason for urgency of the movement in your application.

There are two categories of licences:

### General licence

- If you meet the conditions of the licence, the movement/activity can be undertaken without applying for a specific licence.
- Licences should be printed out and carried by the driver.
- View and download general licences at [gov.uk/government/collections/bird-flu-avian-influenza-movement-licences](https://gov.uk/government/collections/bird-flu-avian-influenza-movement-licences)

### Specific licence

- A specific licence is considered on a case-by-case basis.
- Apply to APHA for permission to carry out a movement or activity, subject to conditions.
- You can apply for specific licences using APHA's online portal: [gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-an-exemption-from-animal-disease-movement-restrictions](https://gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-an-exemption-from-animal-disease-movement-restrictions)
- You can apply for multiple specific licences which allow a number of similar movements/activities to take place over a certain period, subject to conditions, without having to apply for separate licences for each movement/activity.

Slaughterhouses must apply to the Food Standards Agency for designation if they are located within disease control zones, or intend to receive birds from these zones. The application form can be requested from [approvals@food.gov.uk](mailto:approvals@food.gov.uk)

## TOP TIPS

- Apply for movement licences in good time.
- Nominate a single designated contact in your business to liaise with APHA.
- Check the designation status of your processor/packer/hatchery.
- Ensure the licence application form is fully and accurately filled in.
- If you can, make sure you have a separate CPH number for your poultry unit if you run multiple enterprises.
- If you have multiple CPHs, make sure you include the CPH where the birds are kept in the licence application.
- Make sure your poultry is registered correctly with APHA (you can contact Customer.Registration@apha.gov.uk to check).
- Make sure you have a contingency plan in case licences are delayed or rejected.
- If you are not currently in a PZ or SZ, familiarise yourself with licence requirements so you can plan ahead.

## WHAT HAPPENS IF MY PREMISES HAS HAD CONTACT WITH AN INFECTED PREMISES (IP)?

To find where disease may have come from or gone to, APHA will trace all poultry, eggs and litter that have been moved off an infected premises. All people, vehicles and equipment that have visited an IP within the tracing window will also be traced.

The tracing window will be defined for each outbreak but is expected to be at least 21 days prior to the date that disease is likely to have been first present on the IP. These traced premises will be placed under restriction to prevent the spread of any undetected disease pending a more detailed epidemiological investigation. Movements of poultry, eggs, litter and other products of animal origin will be prohibited.

The length of time restrictions will be in place depends on whether the birds at the IP have HPAI or LPAI, however they could last for at least 21 days. Testing may also be carried out.

After initial veterinary assessments have been carried out by APHA, producers may be able to apply for a licence to allow low risk movements to take place. However, such moves will only be allowed if government are content that it will not put disease control at risk and there are legal provisions to issue a licence.

## BIOSECURITY REPORT

You need a valid biosecurity report (EDO338) to receive day old chicks or live birds moved under a specific movement licence. You must get a new report every 6 months. Find out more on [gov.uk](https://gov.uk):



# WHAT HAPPENS IF DISEASE IS CONFIRMED ON YOUR PREMISES?

Certain actions must be taken quickly by APHA in order to contain the disease and minimise the risk of spreading it to other poultry farms. These include:

- Contact tracing of bird/animal and people movements on/off the premises.
- Culling.
- Disposal of carcasses and other contaminated material.
- Preliminary disinfection.



## THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

You will already be keeping good daily production records but it is important to ensure that you keep accurate written details of any factors affected by potentially being confirmed with AI. These additional records should be kept from the moment you suspect any signs of disease and include but are not limited to mortality, birds showing signs of illness, any movements of people, vehicles or equipment on and off site etc. Keeping a log of any interaction related to the reporting of potential disease can also help if needed at a later date, such as times and contents of discussions with your private vet and APHA.

## CULLING & COMPENSATION

If AI is confirmed, APHA will arrange for the birds at your premises to be humanely culled to prevent the risk of disease spread.

Compensation is payable for any healthy birds culled by the government.

APHA will assess the health status of birds no later than either the start of the planned culling or 48 hours after the decision to cull (whichever is sooner). Further details about compensation are available at [gov.uk/guidance/compensation-for-animals-culled-to-control-animal-diseases](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/compensation-for-animals-culled-to-control-animal-diseases)

Valuation is usually carried out by APHA or an APHA approved valuer. They use up to date, independently produced poultry valuation tables to calculate compensation.

In circumstances where this method is not possible, for example rare breeds or exotic bird species not covered by the valuation tables, a specialist consultant may be appointed to carry out the valuation.

Information about how to appeal the valuation can usually be found included in the documentation confirming your compensation from Defra. NFU members with concerns about their level of compensation can contact NFU CallFirst on 0370 845 8458.

You can find the latest poultry valuation tables on [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk):



## DISPOSAL

APHA is responsible for the disposal of carcasses of birds culled for disease control purposes.

Where there are other carcasses, poultry meat, table and hatching eggs on the premises – which have been produced from susceptible animals originating at the IP – these must be disposed of by the owner and government compensation is not payable.

These products must be disposed of in a biosecure manner (following liaison with an APHA vet) and in compliance with Animal By-Products Regulations at a designated disposal facility.

## WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

An IP has three options to eliminate the virus from their holding and thereby comply with international disease control requirements. The choice has an impact on how and when you can restock with poultry, and when the UK can reapply for disease-free status.

**OPTION 1:** Undertake thorough cleanse and disinfection – restocking can take place 21 days after secondary C&D is complete, this is the quickest route to restocking birds.

**OPTION 2:** Undertake C&D to the WOAH Terrestrial Code standard – restocking can take place 3 months and 21 days after secondary C&D is complete.

**OPTION 3:** If you cannot achieve Option 1 or 2 then you cannot restock with poultry for 12 months and your site remains under restriction during that time. This may have an impact on any other enterprises on the same premises.

All processes need to be agreed and signed off with APHA.

It is important to note that the requirements above apply to both commercial and non-commercial premises.

## PRELIMINARY DISINFECTION

Once birds at the IP have been culled, APHA will carry out and fund the preliminary disinfection.

Timing of preliminary disinfection is important since the merging and lifting of disease control zones will only happen after a defined period following this process. They will spray an approved disinfectant on:

- All parts of the premises (other than parts where disinfectants would have no effect, such as fields).
- All equipment which poultry or other captive birds have had access to.
- Any contaminated material remaining at the IP (e.g. litter).
- Anything contaminated during culling.

## SECONDARY CLEANSE AND DISINFECTION

A secondary C&D (cleanse and disinfection) must be carried out at the expense of the operator of the IP before restocking can take place.

Completion of secondary C&D is also linked to when the UK can regain official disease-free status for AI from the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH).

Not being able to carry out secondary C&D, or delays in completing the procedure, can have serious implications for your business, the wider poultry sector, and the international trade of British poultry products.

# WHAT IS THE PROCESS FOR SECONDARY C&D?

1. Once preliminary disinfection is complete, APHA will serve a notice which sets out the high-level requirements that must be met.
2. The IP must then submit plans to APHA for how the requirements will be achieved - established contingency plans will greatly reduce time it takes to generate plans and have them approved.
3. APHA will work with the IP to agree the scope and method before setting out a detailed "Schedule of Works" (EXD158) which will include a target date for completion.
4. APHA will monitor the progress of the work throughout the operation to ensure it is being completed to required standards and will be available to provide any advice required.
5. Once APHA is satisfied that the work has been completed, sentinel birds can be introduced for restocking after 21 days and the countdown to disease freedom begins.

If APHA concludes that secondary C&D cannot be undertaken, or an IP determines not to undertake secondary C&D on the poultry housing, restrictions must remain in place on the premises for a minimum of 12 months from the date of preliminary disinfection. This will mean that no birds can be placed in the housing for 12 months, after which restrictions will then be lifted and restocking permitted.

## WHAT WORK IS INVOLVED?

An external contractor may need to be employed to carry out secondary C&D due to the equipment and expertise required.

Secondary C&D is a deep clean, involving the removal of any residues such as feathers, organic matter and dust, followed by the cleansing, degreasing and disinfecting of all housing and equipment that has come into contact with the birds.

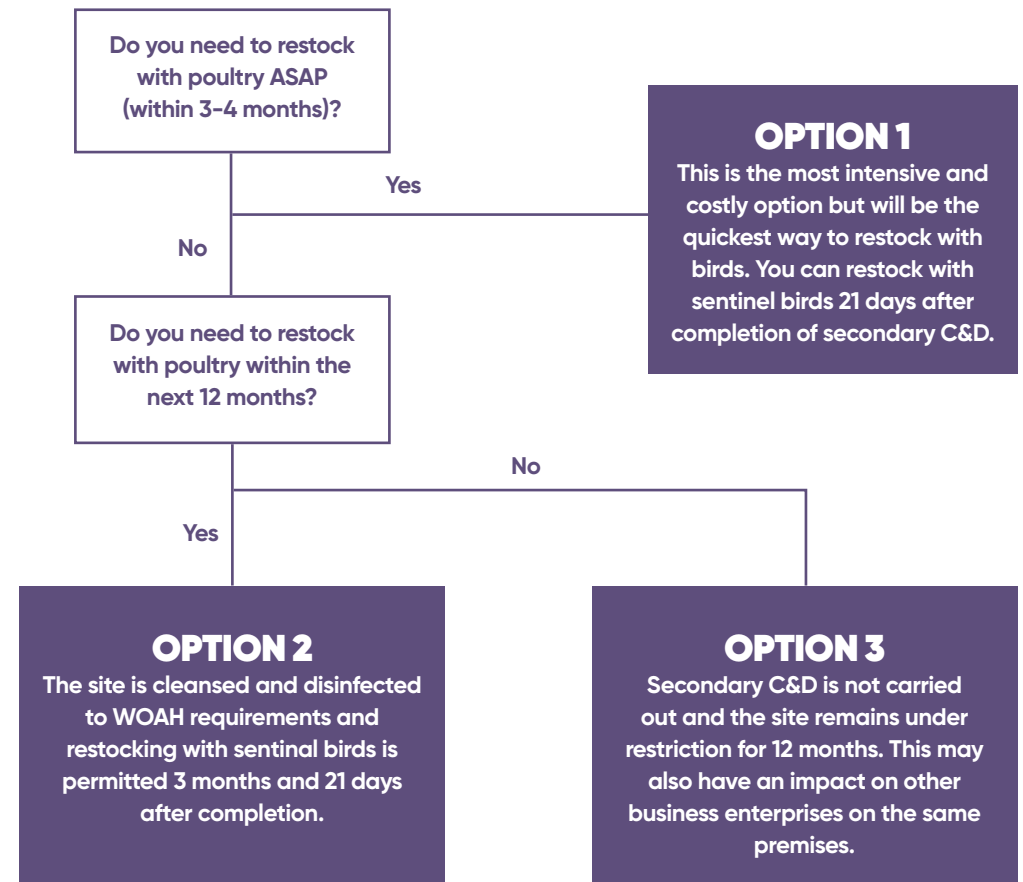
1. Grease and dirt (feathers and litter) must be removed from all surfaces through the application of a degreasing agent and washed with water.
2. After washing with water and leaving to dry, disinfectant should be applied.
3. After seven days, points one and two will need to be repeated followed by a further rinse with water.

Defra-approved disinfectants must be used to carry out the secondary C&D at a concentration approved for treatment of AI virus.

Free-range fields must be harrowed, rotavated or ploughed and left fallow for at least 56 days. The depth will be stipulated in the protocols. This period of time could be longer if there are ponds, ditches or wetland areas on the range.

# WHAT IS THE BEST SECONDARY C&D OPTION FOR YOUR SITE?

Use this flow diagram to help decide which type of secondary C&D may be appropriate for your business.



NFU members can access detailed guidance on secondary C&D, including templates and video instructions on filling out the paperwork on NFU Online:







## DISPOSAL OF WASTE MATERIAL

All waste material which includes water, litter/manure and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is classed as hazardous when it is infectious or has been in contact with infected material. Therefore disposal of waste has to adhere to the Hazardous Waste Regulations. Disposal costs are a significant contributor to the overall cost of secondary C&D at approximately 25% overall expenditure.

### Wash water

Significant quantities can be generated during secondary C&D – it can be spread on land if it is agreed with APHA and the Environment Agency (EA) in England or Natural Resources Wales (NRW) in Wales. The location will be considered dependent on proximity to water courses and any other environmental considerations. Prior to the wash water being spread, it will need to be treated or held for a period of time. An environmental permit will also be required. If the wash water cannot be spread on land it can be sent to a water treatment plant under agreement with the operator.

### Used litter and manure

Must be treated by a method capable of killing the virus. This method must comprise one of the following practices:

- Incineration or steam treatment at a temperature of 70°C. The receiving site of the hazardous waste must have an appropriate permit and record the treatment or disposal. It is unlikely that a power station will continue to accept contaminated litter, therefore this may not be an option for disposal.
- Stacking and dampening (if necessary) in a field or sealed trailer, covering to keep in the heat and leaving covered for 42 days to prevent access by vermin and wild birds. The location for stacking the litter must be approved by the EA or NRW.
- If the litter needs to be moved off farm for stacking, this will need to be done under licence from APHA and may involve compliance with carriage of dangerous goods regulations. The litter can then be spread on agricultural land following best practice.
- Burial of waste on site requires an environmental permit, however it is unlikely that the EA or NRW would issue one for this activity on a farm.



### THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

Secondary C&D is more intensive and expensive than a normal turnaround. Example costs for commercial broiler and laying hen sites can be found in a recent report published by Livetec Systems and NFU Mutual:



## MOVEMENT ON AND OFF THE INFECTED PREMISES

When AI is suspected or confirmed, the movement of people and vehicles also come under restriction during the C&D process. A licence is required to move vehicles and people off the IP.

PPE should be worn to minimise the risk to human health when people come into contact with infected birds or equipment contaminated with body fluids and faeces from infected birds. It should be suitable for the wearer and, where appropriate, should be fit-tested to the person.

Correct PPE will comprise:

- Disposable or polycotton coverall with head coverage of CE type 5 and 6 that offers protection against dusts, splashes and liquid sprays (with, as appropriate, safe disposal or cleaning after use).
- Disposable gloves of lightweight nitrile or vinyl or heavy duty rubber (not latex) gloves that can be disinfected.
- Rubber or polyurethane boots that can be cleansed and disinfected.
- FFP3 respirator with exhalation valve.
- Close-fitting goggles or other equipment that gives at least the same level of protection.

See [hse.gov.uk/agriculture/zoonoses-data-sheets/avian-influenza.htm](https://www.hse.gov.uk/agriculture/zoonoses-data-sheets/avian-influenza.htm) for more information.



## VEHICLES

At any premises where vehicles come under the C&D requirement, the occupier of that premises must provide adequate facilities, proper equipment and materials. All disinfectants must be from the approved list (see link on [nfonline.com/aihub](https://nfonline.com/aihub)) and used at the appropriate dilution.

Any vehicle which may have been exposed to infection must have C&D carried out. This includes:

- Inside surfaces of trailer/bulker.
- Tilt/tarpaulin/top cover.
- Detachable fittings.
- Equipment within the vehicle.
- Exterior of the trailer/bulker.
- Wheels.
- Mudguards and wheel arches.
- Exterior of the vehicle and any other areas exposed to poultry or faecal matter.



### THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

Even if you do not have an active disease outbreak on farm, considering your options for secondary C&D can act as a good contingency planning exercise which may lead to improving biosecurity and reducing the risk of disease which will help improve business resilience.



## RODENT CONTROL

As part of the biosecurity measures put in place the IP is responsible for the implementation and cost associated with rodent control. It is recommended that external contractors are engaged for best effect. APHA will check that the measures in place are adequate.

## AVOIDING DELAYS

There are a number of areas which can delay or even prevent secondary C&D, including what material buildings are made of, whether there are stone or earth floors, how well maintained the site is, the site layout, waste disposal routes and more. Guidance on what to consider as part of your secondary C&D plan can be found on NFU Online:



## RE STOCKING

An infected premises can be restocked under a permit (from APHA) from 21 days (Option 1) or three months and 21 days (Option 2) after secondary C&D has been signed off as complete by APHA.

The premises will remain under restrictions for a further 21 days and it should be stocked at full capacity to ensure that all the areas of the premises that are usually accessed by birds are stocked.

The birds will need to be inspected by an Official Veterinarian (OV) and samples tested at an approved reference laboratory. Sampling (including the costs of packaging and transport) will need to be undertaken at the producer's expense.

If any birds die within the 21-day period, diagnostic tests must be carried out on them. The producer is responsible for recording information of any mortality and must keep production data. If there are any concerns about the health of the birds this must be reported to APHA immediately.

If the birds remain healthy, mortality rates are normal and test results are negative after the 21 days, then all remaining restrictions will be lifted.

If secondary C&D has not been carried out, the premises can only be restocked after restrictions have been lifted 12 months after the preliminary disinfection has been completed.

## BIOSECURITY

Stringent biosecurity is the most effective way to protect your birds from AI. Areas to focus on include:

- **Housing** - make sure buildings are well maintained, with any holes fixed and inlets or open sides covered in net or mesh to keep out wild birds.
- **Bedding** - store undercover and away from wild birds. Cleanse and disinfect outer wrapper before entering sheds.
- **Staff** - ensure staff are trained and up to date with your biosecurity protocols. Boots and overalls must be shed-specific. Avoid sharing staff between sites.
- **Vehicles and equipment** - keep accurate records of vehicles and equipment coming on and off site. Provide facilities for cleansing and disinfection at point of entry.
- **Site** - should be clear of moss with clean yards and curtilage. Prevent poultry access to bodies of water and exercise rodent control. Manage footdrips and use Defra-approved disinfectant at recommended levels.
- **Visitors** - limit access to essential visitors and keep accurate records. Instruct and supervise them on biosecurity requirements. Provide overalls and footwear.
- **Other livestock** - prevent direct and indirect contact between poultry and other livestock on site. Avoid the sharing of staff, co-living of other livestock with poultry or housing multiple species in a shared air space.

Further biosecurity advice, including a downloadable poster is available on NFU Online:



## BIOSECURITY PHOTOBOOK

The Poultry Health and Welfare Group and APHA have published a photobook showing examples of good and poor biosecurity to help poultry keepers assess their own biosecurity standards. Download the photobook from NFU Online:



## VACCINATION

AI vaccination of poultry is not currently permitted in the UK. The avian influenza vaccination task force is a joint poultry sector, cross government group set up to explore options and to develop recommendations for the use of vaccination of poultry as a preventative measure against highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in the UK. The task force report and recommendations are available on gov.uk:



## GAME SHOOTING AND AI

If you operate or are involved in game rearing or shooting you should ensure good biosecurity practices are being followed. Release of game birds is not permitted within disease control zones. You can find more information on NFU Online:



## NEED SUPPORT?

If you are subject to AI, an outbreak of AI, it is understandable to feel an increase in stress or anxiety.

There are a number of rural charities and support networks that can offer help to those in need.

If you are struggling or know someone who is, know that you are not alone. The NFU has put together a list of organisations that can support you, both nationally and locally:



## ARE YOU REGISTERED?

All poultry keepers are legally required to register their birds with APHA, and review their registration details on an annual basis to ensure your record is up to date.

Find out how to register here:

[gov.uk/government/publications/  
poultry-including-game-birds-registration-rules-and-forms](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/poultry-including-game-birds-registration-rules-and-forms)

Update your registration record with any changes here:

[gov.uk/guidance/update-your-kept-bird-record](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/update-your-kept-bird-record)

For more information and resources visit [nfonline.com/aihub](https://www.nfonline.com/aihub)



Please note that the information provided in this booklet is guidance only and does not constitute specific legal or professional advice for your individual business.

Whilst every reasonable effort has been made to ensure the accuracy at the date of publication of the information and the content provided in this booklet, no representation is made as to their correctness or completeness. The NFU does not accept liability arising from any inaccuracies, be they errors or omissions, contained within this booklet.

If you require any specific advice, then you may wish to contact your private Veterinary Officer, APHA Case Officer or NFU CallFirst on 0370 845 8458. For any legal or professional advice, please contact NFU CallFirst, who can also refer you to an NFU Legal Panel Firm if required.

