



## Avian Influenza Virus Fact sheet



### Symptoms of Avian influenza

Respiratory signs and depression

Clinical signs of high morbidity up to 100%

There is sudden increase in mortality at times up to 100%,

High mortalities in caged birds are experienced

If you see some of these signs isolate the flock and contact your veterinary officer.

### **How is Avian Influenza virus spread?**

The incubation period for Avian Influenza is short 3-5 days

Migratory birds such as Muscovy ducks are known to introduce the disease to susceptible flocks. The virus influenza is shed through feces, nasal and oral secretions. As a result the virus can be spread through fecal material (manure) and fomites such as equipment and thus any objects that come from a house where infected birds are kept should be seen as having the potential for spreading infection. Humans and vehicles can also spread the infection from site to site.

### **What to do if you have sick birds?**

Quarantine the farm, do not move birds, eggs or manure off the farm and contact your veterinary officer.

### **What general biosecurity measures can I employ to protect my flock?**

Generally, biosecurity measures will in principle include;

Limit the number of people working in the house and or farms suspected to be infected- dedicate personnel to these sites who should ideally not come in contact with those working in other non-infected houses and or farms.

Disinfect all vehicles entering or leaving the farm –only essential vehicles should enter and leave farms suspected to be infected.

Prevent the movement of clothes, boots equipment and any other materials that may carry the virus to other houses and farms.

Manure should be buried on site and covered in lime or spray formalin, Composting to 70 degrees should be observed to eliminate the virus.

Disinfectants such as glutaraldehyde are effective against the HPAI virus avoid having water puddles on the farm to discourage wild birds and avoid chickens sharing water with wild birds.

For free roaming birds, provide feed and water indoors or at least placed underneath a low solid roof.

Remember to clean and disinfect house, rest for 7 days, repeat, and close off house for 30 days and incinerate (burn) feathers as they tend to hold the virus longer.

### **How do I monitor my flock?**

Continue observing the birds on a daily basis. If you have any suspicion alerts the department of Veterinary.

