

Option #3- Non-intervention

1. Quarantine entire premises. No live poultry movement will be permitted until the quarantine is released.
2. Maintain quarantine for a minimum period of two weeks after death loss and observance of any clinical signs of ILT.
3. Release quarantine provided all necessary cleaning and disinfecting of premises and equipment has been satisfactorily completed under the direction of MDA.

Biosecurity

Biosecurity is defined as measures used to decrease the spread of disease. You can help decrease the spread of ILT and other diseases by:

- Providing and requiring the use of disinfectant foot baths at the entrance of each coop and house in your operation.
- Wearing clean boots and coveralls when working with poultry. Coveralls should be changed, and boots should be cleaned and disinfected when moving between flocks or houses.
 - Not sharing equipment between farms, or between infected and non-infected flocks on the same premises.
- Keeping new birds, or birds that have been exposed to other birds, separate from your flock for approximately three weeks.

For More Information

Contact your local veterinarian or Michigan Department of Agriculture Animal Industry Division
P.O. Box 30017, Lansing, MI 48909
PH: 517.373.1077 • FX: 517.373.6015
www.mda.state.mi.us



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Infectious Laryngotracheitis (ILT)

Respiratory Herpes Virus of Poultry

www.mda.state.mi.us

What is ILT?

Infectious Laryngotracheitis (ILT), also known as Respiratory Herpes Virus, is a viral disease that affects poultry, especially chickens and pheasants. ILT is an airborne disease and can spread through the mouth, nose and eyes of poultry exposed to the disease.

Disease may infect 5% to 80% of an exposed flock. The flock usually shows respiratory signs. ILT may also cause decreased egg production in layers and decreased weight gain in broilers. ILT may take 2 to 4 weeks to go through an entire flock. Infected birds usually die but can recover within 7 to 10 days. Death loss is usually 10% to 20% of the flock.

Signs of Infection

Signs of ILT appear 6-12 days after infection, and progress from mild to severe symptoms, including:

- watery eyes and swollen or crusty eyelids
- Coughing, sneezing, extended neck, gasping for air, wheezing, and head shaking (to dislodge mucous)
- Decreased egg production in layers and reduced weight gain in broilers
- Death (10 - 20% of the flock)

Spread of Infection

ILT can spread by aerosol means through:

- bird to bird contact
- live birds coming in contact with infected dead birds
- birds coming in contact with contaminated clothing, equipment or the environment.

The disease can travel airborne up to one mile.

If ILT Infection is Suspected

ILT is a reportable disease in Michigan. Under Michigan law, if you have knowledge of or reason to believe that a bird is affected by ILT or another reportable disease, you **MUST** immediately report that information to the office of the State Veterinarian, Michigan Department of Agriculture, at 517-373-1077.

Treatment of an Infected Flock

Supportive care is the only medical treatment. Vaccination with a **chick embryo origin** vaccine may be used to help stop the spread of infection within the flock. Use of this vaccine requires prior approval from the State Veterinarian. All infected flocks will be placed under quarantine, and flock managers will be required to implement or increase current biosecurity measures (see biosecurity).

MDA Disease Control Options

MDA veterinarians will work with flock owners to implement one of three disease control options. The options are:

Option #1 - Depopulation

1. Quarantine the newly infected flock.
2. Depopulate the entire flock.
3. Clean and disinfect all contaminated equipment, cages and buildings under the supervision of MDA staff.
4. Maintain quarantine following depopulation for a minimum period of two weeks to allow for ample cleaning and disinfecting time.
5. Release quarantine if all cleaning and disinfecting of equipment, cages, and buildings has been satisfactorily completed.

Option #2 - Vaccination

Use of the chick embryo origin vaccine may be permitted to help provide some protection to the remaining birds. Use of the vaccine is recommended only in disease outbreak situations or on premises where the disease is widespread, and use of this vaccine has been determined as necessary by MDA. If vaccine use is approved, the following will occur:

1. Quarantine entire premises.
2. Vaccinate all birds in the flock.
3. Maintain quarantine for a minimum of two weeks after vaccinating.
4. Re-evaluate flock (must have a period of two weeks without death loss or any clinical signs of ILT in the flock).
5. Release quarantine provided all necessary cleaning and disinfecting of the premises and equipment has been satisfactorily completed under the supervision of MDA.

- **Birds infected with ILT virus, whether sick or recovered, can still shed the virus and infect healthy birds.**
- **Birds vaccinated with either the chick embryo origin or the tissue culture vaccine can shed the virus and infect healthy birds.**
- **Michigan law requires that fairs, exhibitions, expositions or shows notify exhibitors whether or not ILT vaccinated birds are permitted to enter.**