

# Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) A/H5 Case Criteria and Testing Guidelines

Michigan Department of Health and Human Services

## CLINICAL CRITERIA NECESSARY FOR REQUESTING TESTING <sup>(1)</sup>

An acute illness onset with any (or all) of the following:

- Medically attended influenza-like illness
- Acute respiratory infection
- Fever (temperature of  $\geq 38^{\circ}\text{C}$  ( $\geq 100.4^{\circ}\text{F}$ ))
- Conjunctivitis

## EPIDEMIOLOGICAL CRITERIA NECESSARY FOR TESTING

The clinician should ask the patient about recent contact ( $\leq 10$  days prior to symptom onset) with **sick or dead birds** in any of the following categories:

- Domestic poultry (e.g., chickens, turkeys, ducks)
- Wild aquatic birds (e.g., ducks, geese, swans)
- Captive birds of prey (e.g., falcons) that may have had contact with wild aquatic birds

If the patient has any of the above exposures, then the epidemiological criteria necessary for testing are met.

## SPECIMEN COLLECTION AND TESTING

1. Report suspect cases immediately to your local health department
2. Contact the MDHHS Communicable Disease Division to request approval for novel avian influenza A H5 testing and specimen collection protocols. A patient summary form will need to be completed. The CD Division can be contacted M-F 8am - 5pm at (517) 335-8165 or after hours/weekends at (517) 335-9030.
3. Initiate full barrier infection control precautions, including airborne, standard, contact, and eye precautions.<sup>(2)</sup>
4. The following should be collected<sup>(3)</sup> as soon as possible after illness onset for testing ( $\leq 7$  days) at the MDHHS Laboratory:
  - A nasopharyngeal swab, or
  - A nasal aspirate or wash, or
  - Two swabs combined into one viral transport media vial (e.g., nasal or nasopharyngeal swab combined with an oropharyngeal swab)

(If these specimens cannot be collected, a single nasal, or oropharyngeal swab is acceptable. Endotracheal aspirate or bronchoalveolar lavage fluid may be preferred for patients with lower respiratory tract illness. Swab specimens should be collected using swabs with a synthetic tip and an aluminum or plastic shaft.)

## Key Points

- The CDC considers the risk for human infection to be low, but advises that these viruses be regarded as having the potential to cause severe disease in humans until shown otherwise.
- People at greatest risk for potential exposure are those who have been in contact with birds from commercial or backyard flocks that have tested positive for an avian influenza A/H5 virus.
- Any reports of sick or dying birds should be immediately referred to the proper agency:
  - For domestic poultry, contact the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (M-F 8am-5pm at (800) 292-3939 or after hours/weekends at (517) 373-0440.
  - For wildlife, contact your local Michigan Department of Natural Resources office (phone numbers for regional offices are available on the DNR's website at: <http://tinyurl.com/mca6egu>)

1. Testing can be considered for patients with mild or atypical disease, such as significant neurologic or gastrointestinal symptoms in the absence of respiratory disease, or if a patient has a severe or fatal respiratory disease whose epidemiological information is uncertain, unavailable or otherwise suspicious. Please contact your local health department and MDHHS CD Division for further consultation.

2. View infection control guidance at: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/avianflu/novel-flu-infection-control.htm>

3. View specimen collection guidance at: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/avianflu/severe-potential.htm>