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STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

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MDARD Requirements and Recommendations for Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in Dairy and Poultry for Animal Health Officials, Veterinarians, and Producers

May 3, 2024

This document outlines further information on required enhanced biosecurity requirements for both dairy and poultry operations in Michigan in response to this HPAI outbreak.

The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) issued the “HPAI Risk Reduction Response Order” Determination of Extraordinary Emergency on May 1, 2024, to control and prevent the continued spread of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI). HPAI is a contagious viral disease of domestic poultry and wild birds and is deadly to domestic poultry and can wipe out entire flocks within a matter of days. HPAI is a threat to the poultry industry, animal health, human health, trade, and the economy worldwide. In the United States, including in Michigan, HPAI has now been detected in dairy cattle.

Since MDARD detected HPAI in dairy cattle in Michigan on March 29, 2024, MDARD has identified additional dairy herds, as well as commercial poultry flocks that have tested positive for the disease in multiple counties.

Federal and state agencies are moving quickly to conduct additional testing for HPAI virus, including viral genome sequencing to provide a better understanding of the situation to characterize the HPAI virus strain or strains associated with these detections as well as other components of this disease event at the connection between animals, people, and the environment. The genetic and epidemiological data indicate spillover of the virus from wild birds to dairy cows and some instances of spread from dairy to dairy and from dairy premises to poultry premises. Based on analysis at the time of this guidance, the whole genome sequence for virus found in positive herds in nine states and on two recent commercial poultry premises in two different states indicates it is the same strain affecting both dairy cattle and poultry. While it is still unclear exactly how the virus is spreading, the virus is shed in milk at high concentrations; therefore, anything that comes in contact with unpasteurized raw milk, spilled milk, etc., may spread the virus including other animals, vehicles, and other objects or materials. Therefore, both dairy and poultry producers should redouble biosecurity efforts and be vigilant about monitoring for and controlling disease in their herds and flocks.

To continue monitoring and understanding the extent of this virus and reduce the risk of further spread of HPAI, APHIS issued a [Federal Order](#) on April 24, 2024 that requires pre-movement testing for lactating dairy cattle moving interstate and reporting of positive test results from all laboratories and State Animal Health Officials (SAHO). Further guidance and recommendations from APHIS on that order can be [found here](#).

Definitions of terms used in this document:

Visitor: Any individual, who in this context, arrives at a dairy or poultry operation with the intention of entering the operation facilities. This includes but is not limited to employees, owners and family members, delivery personnel, and any guests.

Personal protective equipment (PPE): equipment worn to minimize exposure to a variety of hazards. Examples of PPE include gloves, face masks, rubber boots, shoe covers, eye protection, and full-body coverall suits. PPE can be either disposable or reusable. In this context, PPE is necessary to help reduce the possibility of transferring infectious disease between facilities, or from vehicles into an operation.

Dairy: lactating cattle breeds raised for the primary purpose of milk production.

Lactating: dairy cows currently in one of the lactation phases (i.e., early, mid, and late) of their current production cycle.

Vehicle: any motor-operated mode of transport. This could include personal vehicles, farm trucks, farm equipment and tractors, veterinary trucks, milk haulers, service and delivery trucks such as feed, propane, etc.

Determination of Extraordinary Emergency Order on May 1, 2024

To control and prevent the continued spread of HPAI in Michigan, effective Wednesday, May 8, 2024, the following requirements are in place through this scientifically based extraordinary emergency order:

- All Michigan dairy farms, as well as poultry operations considered commercial by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service must develop and implement biosecurity plans that include:
 - Designation of a biosecurity manager
 - Designation of a line of separation to represent the perimeter of a secure area, limiting access points.
 - Establishment of cleaning and disinfection practices and procedures at those access points for both vehicles and individuals. This must include deliveries of feed and other supplies, and training for employees.
 - Establishment of a logbook maintaining a record of all vehicles and of individuals who have gotten out of vehicles and crossed those access points, to be retained and made available for examination upon request by MDARD.

- All lactating dairy cattle, and those in the last two months of pregnancy, are prohibited from being exhibited until there are no new cases of HPAI in dairy cattle in the State of Michigan for at least 60 consecutive days. No dairy cattle of any age from an infected premises may be exhibited until further notice.

- All exhibitions or expositions of poultry are prohibited until such time that there are no new cases of HPAI in domestic poultry in the State of Michigan for at least 30 consecutive days. As defined in the Animal Industry Act, “poultry” means, but is not limited to, chickens, guinea fowl, turkeys, waterfowl, pigeons, doves, peafowl, and game birds that are propagated and maintained under the husbandry of humans (MCL 287.703(iii)).

Designation of a Biosecurity Manager

A biosecurity manager is an on-site individual familiar with the operation that can be responsible for the implementation of biosecurity practices, training of personnel and visitors, and someone to serve as a point of contact for biosecurity matters for outside agencies. Contact information will be made readily available to MDARD upon request and in this context includes full name, best phone number, email address, employer, and employer address. This designated person will oversee all biosecurity measures for their operation and be involved in implementing the requirements in the HPAI Risk Reduction Response Order.

Designation of a Line of Separation, Limiting Access Points

A line of separation (LOS) creates a functional zone with a distinguishable perimeter that includes business critical areas of the dairy or poultry operation within it. This will look different for every operation but for some operations the LOS perimeter may extend all the way to the property line depending on the facility layout. Some operations with more open space or areas not considered business critical such as housing, other businesses, long-term equipment storage, non-utilized space, fields, etc., may choose to shrink the LOS to a smaller more manageable area. The LOS separates the business-critical areas from areas unrelated to dairy or poultry production on that site or adjoining properties.

The LOS interior is comprised of all essential operation structures and high traffic areas involved in the daily function of the dairy or poultry operation. This would usually include, but may not be limited to, animal housing areas, animal movement pathways, traffic pathways, milking barn/parlor, manure storage, feed storage, calf housing, equipment storage, medical supplies, generators, pump rooms, etc. The LOS interior, from a viral and biosecurity standpoint, is considered the cleanest location on the premises and should be protected from the areas outside the LOS considered “dirty.”

The LOS perimeter should be visibly marked with proper signage and could consist of a physical barrier to prevent access, except through designated LOS access points. At a minimum, the LOS should be documented and visibly clear in biosecurity plans and visibly clear to those crossing it. All access points into or out of the interior area should be secured.

Once the LOS is established, movement into and out of the secure area should be limited to only necessary movement. Necessary employees, vendors, and visitors must be trained on and follow procedures for entering the LOS. People, vehicles, and items moving through LOS access points must follow specific biosecurity steps (see *Cleaning and Disinfecting Practices and Procedures*

below). Non-essential deliveries or pick-ups that do not need to cross the LOS should leave or pick up their delivery outside of the LOS in a designated area/designated parking area.

Cleaning and Disinfecting Practices and Procedures

Cleaning and disinfection (C&D) are physical or chemical processes to kill or remove microorganisms and are vital for disease eradication efforts. This is generally a two-step process involving cleaning to remove debris, followed by the use of a disinfectant to kill remaining microorganisms. Note: when using any C&D product, follow directions and safety precautions on the label.

The LOS access point must contain a C&D station with the means to remove visible debris and then disinfect vehicles, equipment, and items needing to cross the LOS, using any disinfectant that is commercially available, site-relevant, and rated to address influenza A viruses. The C&D station can also include a personal protective equipment (PPE) area, trash bin for PPE disposal, footwear disinfection station, hand sanitization station, and visitor logbook (see below for specific guidance on logbooks). Crossing the LOS requires at a minimum a change of PPE, use of footbath/spray down, and use of hand sanitizer or hand washing. The C&D station should be operated and maintained by individuals (i.e. the biosecurity manager) who have received training in the proper use of PPE and the principles of C&D.

Vehicles: Vehicles should be cleaned between visits to animal production facilities. It is best to clean the vehicle upon leaving one operation and if possible, prior to entering the next. Cleaning should include the tires and interior cab floor mats if the vehicle crosses the LOS and the occupant(s) exited the vehicle. Commercial car washes with wheel well washing provide adequate exterior cleaning. In some situations, tire sprays may be needed.

Equipment: Keep all equipment clean. If at all possible, use disposable equipment or disinfect all equipment prior to entering and leaving the operation property. Even if equipment did not appear to come into contact with animals or their secretions, disease agents may still be present on equipment that crossed the LOS through environmental contamination. Clean and disinfect all equipment before taking it off the premises. Limit movement and sharing of equipment and people between any other dairy, livestock, or poultry operations.

People, Hands: Provide hand-washing stations and encourage use; provide disposable gloves and encourage use. Thoroughly wash hands with antibacterial soap when entering and leaving LOS access points. Wearing disposable gloves is not always a substitute for hand washing; best practices suggest hands should be washed even if gloves are worn.

General: It is recommended to use trailers to transport only your own livestock; disinfect trailer interiors that were used to haul cattle, especially if the cattle were from other operations with unknown health status. Do not allow visitors or drivers access to animal housing, animals, or raw milk products to be fed to calves due to high viral load. Avoid walking through known

contaminated areas; avoid direct contact with contaminated animals, items, surfaces and vehicles; and do not carry personal items (e.g., cigarettes, gum, food, drink, etc.) into any known contaminated areas.

Establishment of a Logbook

Every person crossing the LOS on foot or exiting their vehicle inside the LOS must complete an entry in the logbook. The logbook should be monitored and maintained by the biosecurity manager to ensure accurate completion. Information recorded for each entry should include:

- Date, and entry and departure times.
- Names and contact information of people crossing the LOS (if they exit their vehicle or are on foot).
- The general purpose for crossing.
- Additional information recorded for each entry could include any materials, products, or equipment that accompanied the entry.
- If certain farm services already maintain a logbook at the operation (i.e. milk haulers), they do not have to create duplicative logbook entries. However, that record must be available to MDARD upon request.

For more information on biosecurity:

The [Secure Milk Supply Plan](#) is a collaborative initiative among the dairy industry, USDA, State officials and three universities. The Secure Milk Supply website offers comprehensive materials on dairy biosecurity practices, including posters and information sheets in English and Spanish.

Additional biosecurity resources can be found at the following links:

- For detailed examples of biosecurity checklists, logbook examples and templates, and information on how to establish and operate a C&D station:
 - o [Biosecurity Forms - CFSPH \(iastate.edu\)](#)
- For useful photo examples for establishing the LOS:
 - o [CA Dairy Farm Enhanced Biosecurity Plan Manual](#)
 - o [Enhanced-Biosecurity-Prep-Guide-1.pdf \(nationaldairyfarm.com\)](#)
- [Biosecurity - National Dairy FARM Program](#)
- [Biosecurity for cattle operations | UMN Extension](#)
- [Defend the Flock – USDA Biosecurity for Poultry](#)
- A list of EPA-registered disinfectants can be found [here](#).

Additional information can also be found at [Michigan.gov/BirdFlu](#). For additional questions, please contact the MDARD Customer Service Center at 1-800-292-3939 (Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm (EST)) or email at MDA-info@michigan.gov.