

Pullorum Testing Poultry for Fairs and Exhibitions

WHAT is Pullorum?

Pullorum disease, which is caused by the bacteria *Salmonella pullorum*, is one of the most important poultry diseases. The disease is most common in young birds, but it is also a serious concern in adult birds as they could carry the disease without showing any signs.

There is no treatment or vaccine for the disease. Pullorum disease has been eradicated in U.S. commercial poultry, and it is critical to maintain this disease-free status by monitoring the pullorum status in commercial, backyard, and exhibition poultry.

WHY should you care about pullorum disease?

In order to exhibit poultry at a show, poultry must either originate from a certified pullorum-typhoid free flock through the National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP) or test negative for pullorum within 90 days of exhibition and be kept away from non-tested birds and their equipment.

This requirement applies to all chickens, turkeys, peafowl, game birds (pheasants, quail, and chukars), and ratites (ostriches, rheas, cassowaries, and emus). In Michigan, pullorum testing is not required for finches, budgerigars (parakeets, parrots, and cockatiels), pigeons, doves, and waterfowl going to exhibition.

WHO can test your bird(s)?

Veterinarians and Michigan Certified Pullorum Testers can test your birds. A list of certified testers can be found at www.michigan.gov/mdard-exhibitinfo under "Resources for Exhibitions."

You can become a certified tester in Michigan by attending a Certified Pullorum Tester Workshop. If you are interested in attending a workshop, contact Cathy Lenda at LendaC1@Michigan.gov or 800-292-3939.



WHEN should I test my birds?

Birds must be tested within 90 days of the show. Birds may be tested at a fair or exhibition check-in; however, you may have your birds tested at home by a certified tester prior to the fair. Once tested, the birds must be kept separate from any untested birds and their equipment until the show. If the birds originate directly from a certified pullorum-typhoid free flock through NPIP, were not exposed to untested birds, and have the required documentation, no additional testing is required to enter the fair.

The testing results and bird information is recorded on a special form (AI-013 Avian Test Record or NPIP VS 9-3). A copy of the form will be provided to you by the certified tester or veterinarian, and a copy will be mailed to MDARD. You must have your copy with you to check-in to the fair or exhibition.

HOW do I get more information?

Visit the Michigan Allied Poultry Association pullorum page at www.mipoultry.com/pullorum or call the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development's Poultry Program at 800-292-3939.

Adapted from Iowa State Extension 04-22

