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STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
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## **HPAI Risk Reduction Order: June 26, 2024, Amendment Frequently Asked Questions**

Updated: July 15, 2024

- 1. Would heifers, feeder cattle, or beef cattle from a licensed dairy premises need a nasal swab test or have a test from the farm's bulk tank demonstrating negative detection of HPAI A(H5N1) in order to be exhibited?**

Yes. These animals would need to be tested.

- 2. Does the original order or the amended order prevent lactating beef breed cows from being exhibited?**

No, due to the risk profile for beef breeds, requirements for these animals were not included in the order. However, a lactating beef breed cow (or any beef cow) would need testing if it is moving to an exhibition directly from a licensed dairy premises.

- 3. Some dairy farms have heifers who are not currently housed on a licensed dairy premises or facility locations that often do not have lactating cows. Would a heifer in a case like this need to test?**

If the premises is connected to or affiliated with a licensed dairy premises, yes, either an animal nasal swab or a bulk tank test from the dairy is required. If the premises is not part of a licensed dairy farm, then no testing is needed.

- 4. What does "originating" from a licensed dairy premises mean when testing dairy breeds of cattle for exhibition?**

Public Act 466, the Animal Industry Act, defines "originate" as the direct movement of animals from a herd or flock of origin. Therefore, if an animal was moved off of a dairy farm over a month ago to be raised at a location without a licensed dairy premises, this testing would not be necessary. It only affects those cattle intended to move immediately from a licensed dairy premises directly to an exhibition.

**5. Who verifies that the proper testing has been completed for an animal?**

Each fair and exhibition should designate a staff member to request the testing documentation from exhibitors and verify the record as animals are checked in.

**6. The amended order stipulates to keep a list of all exhibitors. Is an example available?**

Yes. A sample form for this record has been provided on the [Resources for Exhibitions](#) website.

**7. The amended order stipulates to post biosecurity signage about handwashing and maintaining a safe distance from animals. Is an example available?**

Examples of biosecurity signs are available on MDARD's [Resources for Exhibitions](#) page. Some additional signs are also available on [MSU Extension's website](#).

**8. Can poultry now be exhibited in the state of Michigan?**

Yes, poultry can now be exhibited. If there is a new detection of HPAI A(H5N1) in poultry during fair season, the situation will be evaluated to determine the best route for protecting animal and human health.

**9. Can lactating dairy cattle and those in the last two months of pregnancy now be exhibited in Michigan?**

No. The pause put in place by the original HPAI Risk Reduction and Response Order still is in effect and will continue until 60 consecutive days pass without a new case of HPAI A(H5N1) reported in Michigan dairy cattle.

**10. If an animal at a fair develops signs of disease, can that animal immediately return home?**

Fair personnel have the authority to send animals home or isolate them away from the public and other animals until they are examined by a veterinarian. If an animal is sent home and the home premises has other animals of the same species present, the animal should be isolated, examined by a veterinarian, and provided proper treatment. As always, if a [reportable disease](#) is suspected, please report the situation to MDARD at 800-292-3939 (daytime) or 517-373-0440 (after-hours).

**11. Do all breeds of cattle need to be tested if leaving a licensed dairy premises and going directly to an exhibition?**

Yes. All breeds of cattle of any age must be tested.

**12. What if I have questions related to HPAI testing and sample collection?**

For questions related to sample collection and submission (especially nasal swab tests), please contact the Michigan State University Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (MSU VDL) at 517-353-1683 or visit their [website](#). You can also contact your veterinarian.

For bulk tank milk samples, MDARD is coordinating the collection and submission of these samples. Please call 800-292-3939 or your dairy inspector to discuss this option and arrange testing.

**13. The amended order states cattle originating from a licensed dairy premises and traveling for exhibition must have a negative HPAI A(H5N1) test that was conducted in the last seven (7) days. When does this seven-day window begin?**

The seven-day window begins the day test results are reported from MSU VDL.

**14. How long must fairs and exhibitions retain copies of the list of exhibitors and the negative HPAI test results submitted by exhibitors?**

These records should be retained for 12 months.

**15. Is a premises identification number (PIN) needed for the HPAI A(H5N1) testing to be completed by MSU VDL?**

Yes, a PIN is required for testing. To register your premises or to request your existing PIN, call MDARD's Atlanta Field Office at 888-565-8626.

**16. Where can I go to learn more about HPAI A(H5N1) in Michigan?**

Please visit [michigan.gov/birdflu](http://michigan.gov/birdflu) to see the latest information on HPAI in the state, and if there are specific questions related to the amended order, please contact MDARD's Customer Service Center at 800-292-3939 or [MDA-Info@Michigan.gov](mailto:MDA-Info@Michigan.gov). Also, sign up for the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development's "[Avian Influenza](#)" [listserv](#) to receive updates.