

## Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) Planning and Response Checklist for Michigan Local Health Departments

### PRE-EVENT PLANNING

- Review the guidance document "[Public Health Monitoring Plan for USDA/APHIS Responders to Detections of Avian Influenza Virus in Poultry](#)"
- Review [MDHHS HPAI Evaluation and Monitoring Protocol](#)
- Identify large commercial poultry operations in your jurisdiction
- Exchange contact information with the farm manager (name, phone #, email):
- Provide a copy of NIOSH document "[Protecting Poultry Workers from Avian Influenza \(Bird Flu\)](#)" to poultry farm manager.
- Request poultry operations to immediately notify the local health department in the event of suspect case(s) of HPAI (bird or human)
- Be prepared to assess all persons exposed to HPAI-infected birds or their environment for influenza postexposure chemoprophylaxis. Be prepared to provide chemoprophylaxis medications for high-risk individuals.
- Be prepared to collect respiratory specimens from any exposed persons who become ill
  - For specimens to be collected by the local health department:
    - Order Unit #45 Viral Isolation/PCR collection and shipping kits to have on hand ([www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/lab](http://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/lab))
  - For specimens to be collected by a local laboratory:
    - Establish Medical Director Standing Order for respiratory specimen collection of suspect patients at local laboratory (Template attached)
    - Provide laboratory with MDHHS BOL Unit #45 Viral Isolation/PCR collection and shipping kits to have on hand
    - Instruct to collect up to two specimens, one for PCR-based commercial influenza test, if desired, and one for PCR-based Influenza-SARS-CoV-2 Multiplex assay at MDHHS BOL. (Commercial PCR assays may not detect novel viruses).
  - For patients referred to local HCP/Urgent Care/Emergency Department or local COVID testing site:
    - Provide HCP/facility with MDHHS BOL Unit #45 Viral Isolation/PCR collection and shipping kits
    - Instruct to collect up to two specimens, one for PCR-based commercial influenza test, if desired, and one for PCR-based Influenza-SARS-CoV-2 Multiplex assay at MDHHS BOL. (Commercial PCR assays may not detect novel viruses).
- Pre-identify shipping services to expedite specimen delivery to MDHHS BOL (ie., same day or overnight delivery; visit [www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/lab](http://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/lab), Specimen Submission, Specimen Submission Guidelines.
- Ensure LHD staff have access to the Outbreak Management System (OMS). Review the [Monitoring Contacts Using the OMS Tip sheet](#)

## Event Actions: HPAI Positive Flock or Premise Detected

Michigan local health departments will typically be notified by MDHHS of a flock or premise that tests positive for HPAI. If you are notified by another agency, please call MDHHS immediately at (517) 335-8165 and ask to speak directly to an Epidemiologist about avian influenza. If after hours/weekend, call the MDHHS On-Call staff at (517) 335-9030.

- Obtain contact information and establish a means of communication (cell phone, email, etc.) with the MDARD Incident Manager and Flock Owner/Premise Manager.

MDARD Incident Manager: \_\_\_\_\_

Flock Owner/Farm Manager: \_\_\_\_\_

- Obtain a list of all potentially exposed persons, including owners, visitors, workers/HPAI response workers. A list of federal/state response workers may be provided by MDHHS via CDC Epi-X notification. Generally MDHHS will be responsible for federal/state response workers.
- Promptly conduct risk assessments for exposed individuals to determine level of exposure and need for post-exposure antiviral chemoprophylaxis. Provide antiviral chemoprophylaxis medications as indicated [www.cdc.gov/flu/avianflu/guidance-exposed-persons.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/flu/avianflu/guidance-exposed-persons.htm)
- In cooperation with MDHHS SIDE Section staff, initiate a 10-day health monitoring protocol. Work with your MDHHS Regional Epidemiologist to implement health monitoring using the MDSS Outbreak Management System (OMS)
- Provide daily reports to MDHHS on situational updates through the MDSS OMS.
- Notify MDHHS immediately (same day) of any monitored person reporting flu-like illness within 10 days of exposure to HPAI-infected birds or their environment.
- Immediately arrange collection and shipping of respiratory specimens from any exposed persons reporting influenza-like illness.
  - Preferred specimens include a nasopharyngeal swab or aspirate, or a combined nasopharyngeal and oropharyngeal swab. If possible, collect sputum in addition.
  - Ship specimens to MDHHS BOL for Influenza SARS-CoV-2 Multiplex Assay, [MDHHS-5895](#)
- Coordinate with MDARD and MDHHS on press release to notify the public as indicated.
- Notify healthcare providers that HPAI has been detected in birds in the area. Provide information on how to collect and submit respiratory specimens to MDHHS for testing.
- Be prepared to work with the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) Animal Industry Division staff, responsible for quarantining and depopulating infected premises, to provide guidance about protecting people in contact with infected birds and environments.
  - Response workers should wear respirators, eye protection, and protective clothing to include gloves, aprons, outer garments or coveralls, boots or boot covers, and a disposable head cover or hair cover.
  - Persons at high risk for influenza complications should avoid exposure to infected birds or their environments.

## Event Actions: HPAI Positive or Presumptive Positive Human

### Public Health Notifications

- Immediately** call the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) Communicable Disease Division at (517) 335-8165 and ask to speak directly with an Epidemiologist about avian influenza. If after hours/weekend, contact the MDHHS On-Call staff at (517) 335-9030.

### Case Investigation and Reporting Forms

- Promptly enter information on confirmed, probable or suspect avian influenza cases into MDSS using the “Novel Influenza” form.
- If recent contact with HPAI infected birds or their environments, gather information about date(s) of contact and details/location of event.
- Complete CDC Novel Influenza Case Report Form as provided by MDHHS.

### Contact Tracing

- Conduct contact tracing of suspected and confirmed avian influenza cases to identify additional illnesses and collect information on the epidemiology of the virus. Contact tracing is essential to evaluate virus transmission patterns and potential person-to-person transmission.
- Use the MDSS Outbreak Management System (OMS) to collect illness status from monitoring. Work with your MDHHS Regional Epidemiologist to implement monitoring and track responses in OMS.
- Immediately follow-up with any person reporting flu-like illness, for case finding and testing as indicated.
- Provide daily reports to MDHHS regarding any situational updates on ill individuals through the MDSS OMS.

### Influenza Testing Plan

Prepare to facilitate testing of exposed and epi-linked persons reporting influenza-like illness (ILI) directly through the health department, through a standing order at a local laboratory, or through physicians/urgent care/local emergency department or local COVID testing site.

- Arrange for respiratory specimens to be collected as quickly as possible from:
  - All persons with ILI and acute respiratory infection who have had recent contact (within 10 days prior to illness onset) with birds or their environments.
  - All ill household members and persons reporting close contact (within 6 ft) to a person with suspected/confirmed avian influenza infection
- Preferred specimens include a nasopharyngeal swab or aspirate, or oropharyngeal swab. If possible, collect sputum in addition.
- Arrange for specimens to be submitted to MDHHS Bureau of Laboratories (BOL) for Influenza-SARS-CoV-2 Multiplex testing. Commercially available tests may not reliably detect avian influenza virus and cannot distinguish between seasonal human viruses and avian viruses.

## Infection Control Measures

Provide information and instructions on infection control steps for ill and non-ill persons and for healthcare personnel

- ❑ Advise healthcare personnel who treat ill persons with suspected novel influenza infection to follow standard, contact, and droplet precautions as recommended for patient care.
- ❑ If an exposed person develops signs or symptoms consistent with influenza during their monitoring period, initiation of treatment with influenza antiviral medications is recommended while laboratory testing is pending. Recommended treatment is two doses per day of oral oseltamivir or inhaled zanamivir for 5 days. When warranted, antiviral treatment should be initiated as early as possible, even if more than 48 hours has elapsed since illness onset.
- ❑ Ill persons with suspected or confirmed novel virus infections who do not require hospitalization should be isolated at home away from other family members as much as possible. Household members who are at increased risk for influenza complications should avoid coming within 6 feet of ill persons.
- ❑ Persons at high risk for influenza complications should avoid exposure to sick birds or their environments.

## Public Messaging

- ❑ Develop press release in coordination with MDHHS Communications Office/Public Information Officer (PIO) and MDARD PIO to notify the public.
- ❑ Notify healthcare providers that a human case of avian influenza has been detected. Providers should look for cases of ILI and ask about exposure to wild and domestic birds. Provide information about how to collect and submit respiratory specimens to MDHHS for testing.

## RESOURCES

CDC – [Information for People Exposed to Birds Infected with Avian Influenza Viruses](#)

USDA - [Public Health Monitoring Plan for USDA APHIS Responders to Detections of Avian Influenza Virus in Poultry](#)

CDC – [Bird Flu Virus Infections in Humans](#)

NIOSH – [Protecting Poultry Workers from Avian Influenza \(Bird Flu\)](#)

CDC – [Avian Influenza: Information for Health Professionals and Laboratorians](#)

MDHHS BOL: [Laboratory Kit Order Tracking System](#) (specimen collection Unit #45)

[Influenza SARS-CoV-2 Multiplex Assay specimen requirements](#)

[Influenza SARS-CoV-2 Multiplex Assay](#) test request form (MDHHS-5895)

[MDHHS BOL Specimen Submission Guidelines](#)

CDC - [Interim Guidance on Influenza Antiviral Chemoprophylaxis of Persons Exposed to Birds with Avian Influenza A Viruses Associated with Severe Human Disease or with the Potential to Cause Severe Human Disease](#)

CDC - [Interim Guidance on the Use of Antiviral Medications for Treatment of Human Infections with Novel Influenza A Viruses Associated with Severe Human Disease](#)

***This guidance should be considered interim and may change as situations warrant.***

## Standing Orders for Influenza Testing of Persons Potentially Exposed to Avian Influenza

**Purpose:** To identify people infected with Influenza viruses associated with infected birds

**Policy:** These standing orders authorizes eligible healthcare providers and laboratories to collect specimens for influenza diagnostic testing at the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Bureau of Laboratories

**Indications:** To support surveillance for human cases of novel influenza viruses associated with potential exposure to birds infected with influenza. Novel influenza virus is a required reportable condition in Michigan.

**Specimen Type:** Nasopharyngeal swabs in viral transport medium or PBS; Nasal swabs in viral transport medium or PBS; OP swabs in viral transport medium or PBS; Nasal aspirates; Bronchoalveolar lavage; Sputum

Oropharyngeal swabs are preferable to nasopharyngeal swabs. Swab specimens should be collected using only Dacron® tipped swabs with aluminum or plastic shafts. Specimens may be collected and transported in viral transport media.

**Container:** Swabs/tissue – sterile plastic tube with 3 ml viral transport media.

### Specimen Collection and Submission Guidelines:

Test Request Form [MDHHS-5895](#)

[Specimen Submission Guidelines](#)

Transport Temperature: 4° C. Ship immediately on cold packs provided.

See next page for additional information

This collection protocol shall remain in effect for all persons infected or exposed to *influenza A* potentially associated with exposure to infected birds and as requested by the XXXX Health Department until rescinded.

**Approved by:**

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**Chief Medical Executive**  
**XXXXX Health Department**

**Date**

**Important Information for Health Care Providers:**

- Human testing for avian influenza viruses can be performed at the MDHHS Bureau of Laboratories (BOL) free of charge. Preferred specimens include nasopharyngeal (NP) and/or oropharyngeal (OP) swabs.
- Testing at MDHHS BOL should not preclude influenza testing at a healthcare facility, but it is recommended that specimens be collected for both. In addition, it is recommended that healthcare facilities pursue PCR-based tests over rapid EIAs due to the low predictive value positive during times of low seasonal influenza activity.
- Influenza testing kits available to local public health can be used for specimen collection. Specimens tested at MDHHS BOL should be shipped on ice packs and sent promptly.
- MDHHS epidemiology staff are available to answer any specimen collection or shipping inquiries.
- Please contact [INSERT LHD NAME] or MDHHS to report suspect cases and arrange testing.
  - XXXXX Health Department: XXX-XXX-XXXX
  - MDHHS Communicable Disease Division: (517) 335-8165