

QUARANTINE AND RELEASE OF POULTRY DEALERS (For All Subtypes of AI)

Poultry dealer premises may pose a special biosecurity risk, because birds from many different sources may be congregated there, before being shipped to other markets. Poultry dealers travel to high-risk areas, including live bird markets, farms, and auctions. Additionally, private sales of poultry may be conducted from the dealer premises, creating traffic onto and off of the premises.

The following protocols will be followed when:

- a. A poultry dealer premises is implicated in an epidemiological investigation; and/or
- b. Samples taken from birds or from the environment in a poultry dealer's premises are found positive for Avian Influenza by serology (bird samples) or virus detection testing (birds/environmental samples).

A. PROTOCOL FOR DEALERS TRANSPORTING POULTRY FROM TESTED SOURCES ONLY (PICK UP POULTRY FOR TRANSPORT TO MARKET ONLY AFTER FLOCK ON FARM IS TEST NEGATIVE):

QUARANTINE:

- The premises will immediately be quarantined by the RI DEM Division of Agriculture (DAG). The RI State Veterinarian or a designee will post the quarantine.
- Quarantine prohibits the movement of birds, swine, animal products, litter, and offal into or out of the premises. No poultry may be shipped to any live bird market (LBM), auction, or farm, and no private sales may be conducted on site.

INSPECTION OF DEALER RECORDS:

- Officials of the RI DEM Division of Agriculture will inspect dealer records to verify that birds have been tested in accordance with DAG requirements; that source flocks are comingled in accordance with State requirements; and that purchase records are being maintained to allow tracing of birds.

RELEASE FROM QUARANTINE:

- **Cleaning and Disinfection:**
 - Transportation and holding equipment (trucks, crates, etc), and the environment where poultry are sorted for load outs, must be cleaned and disinfected. DAG and/or USDA officials will verify the cleaning and disinfection by inspecting the premises after it has been completed.
- **Environmental Sampling:**
 - A minimum of 8 to 10 tubes will be collected from the premises and each tube should contain 11 swabs, for a total of 88 to 110 swabs. Swab samples will be collected from clean transportation vehicles and crates, loading dock area / holding pens, and any other areas of the premises which may be considered high risk. The following sampling guidelines should be applied:

- Transportation vehicles: 5 tubes (55 swabs) including samples of tires, truck bed, inside cab – pedals, floor board, etc.).
 - Crates: 1 to 5 tubes (11 to 55 swabs) depending on the number of crates.
 - Loading dock area / holding pens: 2 to 3 tubes (22 to 33 swabs) representative of the area.
 - The environmental samples will be submitted to a DAG- or USDA-designated laboratory for virus isolation testing. This testing takes approximately 7 days.
 - If the laboratory reports that all tests are negative, the premises may be released from quarantine.
 - If any environmental samples test positive, cleaning and disinfection must be repeated, and environmental samples will again be collected and tested.
 - If environmental samples are positive after 3 cycles of cleaning and disinfection/testing, the DAG may require an extended down time.
- Sampling of Poultry:
 - If poultry are present on the premises, swabs will be collected from 30 birds representative of the premises for virus detection testing. If poultry on the premises are going to be moved to a LBM, swabs must be collected from 150 birds.
 - The protocol [Testing of Small Flocks and End of Premises Quarantine](#) (6-9-AI-P10 in the DEM ERP) will be utilized for testing of poultry.

B. PROTOCOL FOR DEALERS TRANSPORTING POULTRY FROM UNTESTED SOURCES:

QUARANTINE:

- The premises will immediately be quarantined by the DAG. The RI State Veterinarian or a designee will post the quarantine.
- Quarantine prohibits the movement of birds, swine, animal products, litter, and offal into or out of the premises. No poultry may be shipped to any LBM, auction or farm, and no private sales may be conducted on site.

INSPECTION OF DEALER RECORDS:

- DAG officials will inspect dealer records to verify that birds have been tested in accordance with State requirements; that source flocks are comingled in accordance with State requirements; and that purchase records are being maintained to allow tracing of birds.

RELEASE FROM QUARANTINE:

- Cleaning and Disinfection:
 - Transportation and holding equipment (trucks, crates, etc), and the environment where poultry are sorted for load outs must be cleaned and disinfected. DAG and/or USDA officials will verify the cleaning and disinfection by inspecting the premises after they have been completed.

- Environmental Sampling:
 - A minimum of 8 to 10 tubes will be collected from the premises and each tube should contain 11 swabs, for a total of 88 to 110 swabs. Swab samples will be collected from clean transportation vehicles and crates, loading dock area/ holding pens, poultry areas, and any other areas of the premises which may be considered high risk. For example, the following sampling guidelines should be applied:
 - Transportation vehicles: 5 tubes (55 swabs) including samples of tires, truck bed, inside cab – pedals, floor board, etc.).
 - Crates: 1 to 5 tubes (11 to 55 swabs) depending on the number of crates.
 - Loading dock area / holding pens: 2 to 3 tubes (10 to 15 swabs) representative of the area.
 - Poultry areas: 2 to 3 tubes (22 to 33 swabs) representative of each area including floors, walls, feeders/waterers, roosting boxes, etc.
 - Areas outside of poultry areas may be included if poultry are allowed to roam free on the premises.
 - The environmental samples will be submitted to a DAG- or USDA-designated laboratory for virus isolation testing. This testing takes approximately 7 days.
 - If the laboratory reports that all tests are negative, the premises may be released from quarantine.
 - If any environmental samples test positive, cleaning and disinfection must be repeated, and environmental samples will again be collected and tested.
 - If environmental samples are positive after 3 cycles of cleaning and disinfection/testing, the DAG may require an extended down time.
- Sampling of Poultry:
 - If poultry are present on the premises, swabs will be collected from 150 birds.
 - The protocol [Testing of Small Flocks and End of Premises Quarantine](#) (6-9-AI-P10 in the DEM ERP) will be utilized for testing of poultry.

The RI DEM Division of Agriculture reserves the right to amend the above mentioned requirements for Avian Influenza with the goal of any changes still being to prevent, contain and eliminate the disease. Changes to the general guidelines of the protocol may result from information including, but not limited to, virus strain, pathogenicity, morbidity and mortality, movement of birds and products, and additional epidemiological information obtained as a result of avian influenza investigations.