

**RESPONSE TO AI POSITIVE TEST ON ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES
COLLECTED AT CRATE WASHING FACILITIES
(For All Subtypes of AI)**

Crate washing facilities may pose a special biosecurity risk, because dirty crates are shipped to the facility from many different locations, including live bird markets. Clean crates leave the facility, and are used to transport birds to many different locations, including the live bird markets.

The following protocols will be followed when:

- a. A crate washing facility is implicated in an epidemiological investigation; and/or
- b. Samples taken from the environment, including vehicles and crates, crate washer, clean crate area, truck wash area, etc. at a crate washing facility are found positive for Avian Influenza by virus detection testing.

Protocol for response to positive environmental results from clean crate area, crate washer, truck wash area, and other parts of the facility (PCR on allantoic fluid or virus isolation):

- If there is reason to believe that it is a high path strain, including H5N1 Asian strain, the facility will be quarantined.
- If crates and/or trucks are found to be positive, an epidemiological investigation will be conducted.
- The owner/caretaker will be notified that an immediate cleaning and disinfection of the facility and all equipment, including crates and vehicles in the facility and in the truck washing area, are required.
- After the cleaning and disinfection are complete, and after sufficient time has passed for the facility to dry, personnel designated by USDA or RI DEM Division of Agriculture (DAG) will collect environmental samples as per USDA protocol for environmental sampling (includes truck bed, truck cab, clean crates, clean crate area, freshly washed crates, crate washer, and truck wash area. 40 – 50 environmental swabs (8 – 10 samples) will be collected.
- USDA or DAG representatives will review biosecurity procedures with the owner or caretaker of the facility.
- If all environmental swabs collected after the cleaning and disinfection are reported as negative (virus isolation), no further action is required.
- If environmental swabs collected after the cleaning and disinfection are reported as positive (PCR on allantoic fluid or VI);
 - If the facility is under quarantine, it will remain under quarantine until another cleaning and disinfection has been conducted, and environmental swabs are reported as negative (virus isolation).
 - If the facility has not been quarantined, it may be quarantined at the discretion of DAG.

- If the facility has not been quarantined, another cleaning and disinfection must be conducted and environmental swabs collected and tested.
- If the second set of swabs is reported as positive (PCR on allantoic fluid or VI), the facility will be quarantined until it is cleaned and disinfected and until environmental swabs collected are reported as negative (virus isolation).
- If environmental samples are positive after 3 cycles of cleaning and disinfection/testing, the DAG may require an extended down time.

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.