

What happens in an Avian Influenza outbreak

My animals are displaying unusual symptoms. What do I do?

- If you see signs like a drop in egg production, watery eyes, sinusitis, diarrhoea, discolouration of comb, mild to severe respiratory disease and sudden increase in unexplained deaths, it could be AI in your flock.
- **Call your local private or government veterinarian**, who will conduct investigations to confirm or rule out the presence of disease.
- Alternatively, you can also call the **Emergency Animal Disease Hotline** on **1800 675 888**.

What happens when an AI outbreak is confirmed?

1. Quarantine Implementation

If an AI outbreak is confirmed, the property is placed under quarantine, and disease control decisions become the responsibility of the Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO) in your state.

2. Response Plan

An Intent of Destruction Notice will be provided. To develop a response plan, the responsible government authority will discuss logistical options for the destruction and disposal of birds, eggs, manure, and other materials in accordance with the appropriate procedures.

3. Suspension of Egg Movements

All egg movements are stopped. Materials such as raw goods, finished products, packaging, and transportation materials are quarantined on-site.

4. Implementation of Biosecurity Measures

Strict biosecurity protocols are enforced for personnel, vehicles, equipment, and any other potentially contaminated items.

5. Establishment of Control Center

A designated area is then set up to serve as a control center for managing the outbreak.

6. Appointment of Livestock Liaison Industry (LLI)

A Livestock liaison Industry officer is appointed to facilitate communication and coordination between the farm and relevant authorities.

7. Initiation of Tracing and Surveillance by Government

The farm collaborates with the department to trace movements and conduct surveillance, potentially involving sample collection for laboratory testing. Tracing to other businesses that the farm has contact with is possible by the records they provide to the Department.

8. Record Keeping

Detailed records are maintained of all decisions, actions taken, and movements of birds, people, and items on and off the infected property.

9. Coordination of Destruction and Disposal Operations

The authorities will then work with the farm and LLI, following the response plan to organise the destruction and disposal operations.

10. Decontamination Process

Thorough cleaning and disinfection of the infected site, including property, equipment, clothing, and footwear, are conducted using appropriate chemical and manual treatments.

11. Repopulation

Restocking of flocks should only be undertaken after a risk assessment and consideration of the epidemiological situation. A surveillance plan will be required to demonstrate that infection has been eradicated from the farm and enable any remaining movement restrictions to be lifted.

Where do I go for information?

- Contact state or territory government bodies, their social media channels and websites, or your vet for up-to-date information or go to www.outbreak.gov.au



How do I protect my property?

- **Implement strong on-farm biosecurity practices:**
Visit www.farmbiosecurity.com.au or www.australianeggs.org.au/for-farmers/resources/biosecurity for further information.
- Limit contact between domestic poultry and wild birds, especially waterfowl.



Information flow in a response

PRODUCERS

Producers share information with their Industry Liason Representative.



INDUSTRY LIASON REPRESENTATIVE

Feeds **Producer** information into response and provides **response** information back to Producers.

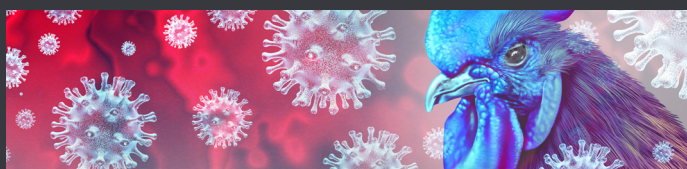


GOVERNMENT RESPONDERS

Share information with their Industry Liason Representative.

Should I talk to the media?

- In an EAD response, Australian Eggs, Egg Farmers Australia and the State farming bodies will work together to ensure a consistent message is delivered to the media.
- Working with your State's farming body is the best way for you to share information and have your voice heard.
- It's important that messaging about the outbreak is consistent to prevent the circulation of incorrect/confusing information, which could affect Australia's market access and your individual trade relationships.



For further information please visit australianeggs.org.au

