

**Revised 12/28/23**

## ***HPAI Sampling Protocols, Information, and Important Links***

### **Table of Contents**

#### A. Sick bird sampling

- ☐ Chickens, Turkeys, Gamebirds
- ☐ Waterfowl
- ☐ Swabbing

#### B. Definitions

- ☐ Poultry
- ☐ Non-poultry
- ☐ Commercial flock

#### C. Surveillance testing of healthy commercial flocks around an infected flock

- ☐ Surveillance zone testing
  - Commercial waterfowl flocks SZ testing
  - Commercial chicken, turkey, and gamebird flocks SZ testing
- ☐ Control area testing
  - Commercial waterfowl flocks CA testing
  - Commercial chicken, turkey, and gamebird flocks CA testing
- ☐ Release of surveillance areas
- ☐ Surveillance around non-poultry flocks

#### D. Testing for movement

- ☐ Secure Poultry Supply Plan link
- ☐ Non-commercial flocks
- ☐ Flocks for NJ LBM

#### E. Samples to collect

- ☐ Which birds to swab
- ☐ Age of birds to swab
- ☐ Swabbing healthy birds

#### F. Handling swabs

- ☐ One species/tube
- ☐ Labelling tubes
- ☐ Number of swabs per tube for chickens, turkeys, and gamebirds

- ☐ [Number of swabs per tube for waterfowl](#)

#### [G. HPAI submission form](#)

#### [H. Who may collect samples](#)

#### [I. Premises identification \(Prem ID\):](#)

#### [J. Biosecurity plans](#)

- ☐ [For indemnity purposes](#)
- ☐ [For movement permits](#)

#### [K. Live bird market flock movement requirements](#)

#### [L. Permitting overview](#)

- ☐ [Biosecurity Plan Requirements](#)

#### [M. Control area release](#)

#### [N. Important links and phone numbers](#)

### **Protocols**

#### **A. Sick bird sampling:**

- ☐ Sampling of suspect flocks requires more samples per house than are collected for movement or weekly surveillance purposes.
- ☐ **If you have a flock you suspect is infected with HPAI, please immediately call the PDA Emergency Line at 717-772-2852, option 1.**
- ☐ For suspect chicken, turkey, or game bird flocks, 30 swab samples from each house or poultry area with birds showing clinical signs of HPAI are required.
- ☐ For suspect waterfowl flocks, 35 cloacal swab samples from each house or poultry area with birds showing clinical signs of HPAI are required.
- ☐ For suspect mixed-species flocks with waterfowl, if waterfowl are in the affected house/poultry area, 35 cloacal swab samples from each house or poultry area with birds showing clinical signs of HPAI are required. Swab all species from that house or area.
- ☐ Always prioritize swabbing fresh mortality first, then sick birds, and then healthy birds to get the correct number of samples. It is recommended to submit swabs from healthy birds in tubes separate from swabs from dead and sick birds, which can be combined. Label the tubes or number the tubes and mark on the submission form which birds are represented in the tubes. Include species and if dead, sick, or healthy.
- ☐ Do not mix swabs from more than one species in a tube.
- ☐ It is not required to sample unaffected houses as historically virus has been identified in dead and sick birds (subject to change).

- ☐ Please consider that the suspect flock you are visiting may be an infected flock and use your best biosecurity practices if you collect samples, and afterward. Dispose of your outerwear and footwear on the premises, or bag it for proper cleaning; don't visit any other flocks, and run your vehicle through a nearby car wash.

## B. Definitions:

1. Poultry: Per the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH): All birds reared or kept in captivity to produce any commercial animal products or for breeding for this purpose, fighting cocks used for any purpose, and all birds used for restocking supplies of game or for breeding for this purpose, until they are released from captivity.
2. Non-poultry: Per the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH): Birds that are kept in a single household, the products of which are used within the same household exclusively, are not considered poultry, if they have no direct or indirect contact with poultry or poultry facilities.
3. Commercial flock: Per the National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP), a commercial flock is defined as:

Bird Type	Number
Commercial Layers and pullets	75,000 or more birds on premises at one time
Commercial Broilers	Raise 100,000 or more/year
Commercial Meat Turkeys	Raise 30,000 or more/year
Commercial Upland Game Birds/ Commercial Waterfowl	Raise 25,000 or more/year
All Breeder Flocks (all types)	5,000 breeder birds or more on premises at one time

**Addendum 12/28/23: It is critical that smaller flocks, not meeting the NPIP definition of commercial but associated with an integrator, management company, and/or feed mill/service company, also perform surveillance testing as below in the surveillance zone and control area.**

## C. Surveillance testing of healthy commercial flocks around an infected premises:

- a. The area around an infected commercial flock or other WOAH poultry flock will be designated as a "Control Area" (10 km radius (6.21 miles)) and a "Surveillance Zone" (an additional 10 km radius surrounding the Control Area).

- b. Surveillance testing around an infected poultry flock is necessary to prove that HPAI has not spread to other flocks, so that control areas and surveillance zones can be released, and PA can once again be designated HPAI-free.
- c. The location of a premises relative to a HPAI-infected premises can be determined through the EMRS Gateway or by the PADLS control area address checker map at [Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza \(arcgis.com\)](https://arcgis.com).

#### **Surveillance Zone Testing:**

- i. **Waterfowl:** In the Surveillance Zone, it is critical that avian influenza surveillance testing begin within the first 72 hours of the placement of the control area, and be performed on a weekly basis (every 5-7 days) for all commercial waterfowl flocks and waterfowl flocks associated with an integrator, management company, and/or feed mill/service company. Include birds 3 weeks of age and older. Cloacal swabs are required for testing of waterfowl. 35 swabs (7 tubes) from each house are required. Prioritize sampling of fresh dead and sick birds. Do not mix swabs from more than one species in a tube.
- ii. **Chickens, turkeys, and gamebirds:** In the Surveillance Zone, it is critical that avian influenza surveillance testing begin within the first 72 hours of the placement of the control area, and be performed within every 14 day period for commercial chicken, turkey, and gamebird flocks, and chicken, turkey, and gamebird flocks associated with an integrator, management company, and/or feed mill/service company. Include birds 3 weeks of age and older. Oropharyngeal or tracheal swabs are required for testing of these flocks. 22 swabs (2 tubes) from each house are required. Prioritize sampling of fresh dead and sick birds. Do not mix swabs from more than one species in a tube.

#### **Control Area Testing:**

- i. **Waterfowl:** In the Control Area, it is critical that avian influenza surveillance testing begin within the first 72 hours of the placement of the control area, and be performed every week (every 5-7 days) for commercial waterfowl flocks and waterfowl flocks associated with an integrator, management company, and/or feed mill/service company. Include birds 3 weeks of age and older. 35 swabs (7 tubes) from each house are required. Prioritize sampling of fresh dead and sick birds. Do not mix swabs from more than one species in a tube.

- ii. Chickens, turkeys, and gamebirds: In the Control Area, it is critical that avian influenza surveillance testing begin within the first 72 hours of the placement of the control area, and be performed every week (every 5-7 days) for commercial chicken, turkey, and gamebird flocks and chicken, turkey, and gamebird flocks associated with an integrator, management company, and/or feed mill/service company. Include birds 3 weeks of age and older. 22 swabs (2 tubes) from each house are required. Prioritize sampling of fresh dead and sick birds. Do not mix swabs from more than one species in a tube.
- iii. If no additional infected flocks are found, the Control Area and Surveillance Zone may be released. Surveillance testing in the Control Area and Surveillance Zone is expected to end approximately 14 days after the completion of successful Initial Virus Elimination (IVE) on an infected premises.
- iv. A Surveillance Zone (10 km (6.21 miles radius)) may be placed around an infected WOAHP non-poultry flock if state officials determine it is necessary for disease control. There will be no Control Area placed, thus there will be no requirement for movement permits around a WOAHP non-poultry flock.
- v. Please consider that the flock you are visiting may be an infected flock and use your best biosecurity practices while you collect samples, and afterward.

#### **D. Testing for movement:**

- ☐ If moving poultry or poultry products from a premises located within a control area or moving into a control area, additional testing may be required per the *Secure Poultry Supply (SPS) Plan*. To find movement requirements for your bird or product type, please refer to the relevant *Secure Poultry Supply Plan* at <https://securepoultrysupply.umn.edu/>. Note: There is currently no SPS plan for waterfowl, so test 35 waterfowl/house for a movement permit and check with the Permitting Unit for additional requirements.
- ☐ Although healthy non-commercial flocks are not required to be included in the surveillance testing of healthy flocks, they must still meet the pre-movement testing requirements for a permit if located in the 10 km Control Area around an infected flock.

- ☐ Live bird market (LBM) supply flocks must additionally meet the pre-movement testing requirements for movement to live bird markets in New Jersey. New Jersey requires negative testing within the 72-hours prior to movement if PA has an active HPAI Control Area in place, even if the flock is not located in the Control Area.

#### **E. Samples to collect**

- ☐ Which birds to swab: Always prioritize swabbing fresh mortality first, then sick birds, and then healthy birds to get the correct number of samples. Submit swabs from healthy birds in tubes separate from swabs from dead and sick birds, which can be combined.
- ☐ Age of birds: Swab birds 3 weeks of age and older, unless younger birds are sick or there is unusual mortality in younger birds—in these cases you should include swabs from these younger birds.
- ☐ Always collect a representative sample of the house when swabbing healthy birds. Collect samples randomly from birds representing each house, pen, or poultry area. Do not just collect samples from a group of birds being moved.
- ☐ Please consider that the flock you are visiting may be an infected flock and use your best biosecurity practices while you collect samples, and afterward.

#### **F. Handling swabs**

- ☐ Place swabs from different species in separate tubes.
- ☐ Label the tubes or number the tubes and mark on the submission form which birds are represented in the tubes. Include species and if dead, sick, or healthy.
- ☐ For gallinaceous species (chickens, turkeys, and gamebirds), oropharyngeal swabs with swabbing through the choanal slit is an acceptable sample.
  - Swab up to 11 birds of one bird type per tube but do not leave the swabs in the tube. Instead, after swabbing several birds, swirl the swabs in the broth, squeeze them against the side of the tube, and remove the swabs from the tube of BHI. Dispose of the swabs properly. Repeat until you have the correct number of swabs. Do not mix swabs from more than one species in a tube. Place swabs from different species in separate tubes and label the tube with that species.
- ☐ For waterfowl, cloacal swabs are the only acceptable sample:
  - Swab up to 5 ducks or geese and leave the swabs in the tube. Break the swab handles to properly close the tube cap. Place swabs from ducks and geese in separate tubes and label the tubes with that species.

### G. HPAI submission form

- ☐ For samples collected from flocks located in a HPAI Control Area or Surveillance Zone in PA, samplers should use the *High Path Avian Influenza PCR Submission Form* when submitting swab samples for AI testing. It will be available on the PADLS website under the “Find Forms” tab ([PADLS FORMS](#)).
- ☐ Please use care when completing the form—it must be filled out completely and accurately to prevent delays at the lab, allow proper billing for testing, and for accurate counting of tests performed for HPAI.
- ☐ If testing for restocking of a previously infected premises, even if currently outside of a CA or SZ, this form may be used—write “restocking for HPAI” on the form (or on the regular avian sample submission form) as the purpose of test.

### H. Who may collect samples?

Samples for regulatory testing (testing for HPAI surveillance, movement, or program purposes) may be collected only by the following:

- ☐ A Certified Poultry Technician licensed in PA
- ☐ A current PDA-approved HPAI Sampler (may only collect samples from flocks for which they were approved by PDA and may only collect samples from a flock located within a control area or surveillance zone)
- ☐ An Accredited Veterinarian

### I. Premise Identification (Prem ID) of the poultry flock location:

A premises ID number is important for several reasons:

- ☐ PDA can alert you if your farm is near a flock infected with HPAI or other dangerous disease.
- ☐ A (federal) premises ID number is necessary to determine if your flock is located in a Control Area around an infected flock, and to get a movement permit if you need one.
- ☐ A (federal) premises ID number is necessary to move into live bird markets (it is used on the Poultry Inspection Certificate).
- ☐ A premises ID number is necessary on sample submission forms to help with identification of the farm. Using the farm owner’s name to identify a flock can cause confusion with test results if there are several farm owners with similar names.
- ☐ Always use the address of the flock location when registering for a premises ID, rather than an office or home address.

- ☐ If you have questions about a premises ID number, please use this email address: [RA-PREMISE-ID@PA.GOV](mailto:RA-PREMISE-ID@PA.GOV) or call 717-772-2852, and choose option 5.

## **J. Biosecurity Plans**

- ☐ For indemnity purposes: For a flock affected by HPAI to be eligible for full USDA indemnity, a flock meeting the definition of commercial should have an approved biosecurity plan using the NPIP template within the past 2 years, and that plan should be implemented on the farm. USDA makes the final determination of indemnity eligibility.
- ☐ There are now two options for non-commercial premises to meet the biosecurity plan requirements when needed for obtaining a movement permit (new September 2023) — refer to the permitting overview ([section L](#)).
- ☐ All flock premises, regardless of flock size, should have a biosecurity plan in place and should follow that plan on a daily basis.

## **K. Live Bird Market (LBM) Flock Movement Requirements**

1. Requirements for LBM flocks located in a PA Control Area (10 kilometers (6.21 miles)) around an infected flock or moving into a PA Control Area:

- ☐ An approved Biosecurity Plan as applicable ([refer to section L](#))
- ☐ A HPAI Poultry Inspection Certificate (PIC) (to be used instead of a Monitored Flock or Tested Flock PIC when there is an active Control Area in PA) (NJ requires this form to be used instead of a Monitored Flock or Tested Flock PIC when there is an active Control Area in PA, and this form will be accepted by NY and PA)
- ☐ A copy of the final AI-negative lab report
- ☐ A movement permit from PDA/EMRS, which has been approved by PDA and the state of destination if moving out of state
- ☐ An additional permit from the NJ Dept of Agriculture if birds are entering a NJ live bird market
- ☐ Testing so that all of the following requirements are met:
  - Monitored Flock or Tested Flock requirements for live bird markets (30 per flock, 3 weeks of age and older, representative of the entire flock, including all houses/areas). Include a random, representative sample of poultry kept for personal use on the premises in the sample collection.
  - EMRS/PDA Permit/ Secure Poultry Supply requirements (22 per house for chickens, turkeys, and game birds; 35 per house for waterfowl). Include a random, representative sample of poultry kept for personal use on the premises in the sample collection.



- Testing for entry into a NJ live bird market: All poultry shall originate and move directly from an established flock in which a minimum of 30 birds, seven days of age and older and representative of the entire flock, including all houses/areas, were tested negative for AI by PCR within the 72 hours prior to entry into NJ.
- Samples must be collected within the 24 hours prior to movement, with AI-negative PCR results—this also meets the NJ requirement of testing within the 72 hours prior to entry into NJ.

2. Requirements for Flocks located outside of a Control Area, and not moving into a Control Area, when a Control Area is in place, moving into NJ (no PDA/EMRS permit is required):

- ☐ HPAI Poultry Inspection Certificate (PIC) (NJ requires this form to be used instead of a Monitored Flock or Tested Flock PIC when there is an active Control Area in PA, and this form will be accepted by NY and PA)
- ☐ A copy of the final AI-negative lab report
- ☐ A permit from the NJ Dept of Agriculture if birds are entering a NJ live bird market
- ☐ Testing for entry into a NJ live bird market
  - All poultry shall originate and move directly from an established flock in which a minimum of 30 birds, seven days of age and older and representative of the entire flock, including all houses/areas, were tested negative for AI by PCR within the 72 hours prior to entry into NJ.

3. Timing of Sampling: Because the 24-hour or 72-hour testing requirement may result in a flock being sampled in the morning and shipped that evening—good communication and coordination is critical between the person requesting the permit, the state official approving the permit(s), the sampler, the flock owner, the distributor/hauler, the live bird market, and the laboratory. Getting samples to the laboratory before the daily cut-off time is vital for same-day testing. The date and time of sample collection should be included on the submission form and the PIC.

**4. If any houses have an increase in the number of sick or dead birds, call the PDA sick bird emergency line at (717-772-2852, option 1, 24/7)**

#### **L. Permitting Overview**

- ☐ Permitting allows premises to make necessary movements relative to a control area without creating an unacceptable risk of disease spread. Permits are used for both critical and essential movements and for continuity of business movements.

- ☐ If moving poultry or products from a premises located within a control area or moving into a control area, additional testing may be required per the *Secure Poultry Supply (SPS) Plan*.
- ☐ All permits must be approved by the state of origin before movement; additionally, for any interstate permitted movement, the state of destination must also approve the permit before movement.
- ☐ Any poultry premises in the Control Area will need to obtain movement permits and provide proof of negative avian influenza testing for movement of poultry and certain poultry products moving within, into, or out of the Control Area.
- ☐ Manure movements related to a Control Area also require a permit.
- ☐ Items **NOT** needing permits for movement during the incident: (new-September 2023)
  - (1). **Feed:** Feed mills are to adhere to the minimum biosecurity requirements as identified below, although the documents do not have to be submitted to PDA with the permit request:
    - i. Feed mill truck biosecurity requirements:  
[FeedMillTruckBiosecurityRequirements.pdf \(pa.gov\)](#)
    - ii. Feed mill truck disinfection log:  
[FeedMillTruckDisinfectionLog.pdf \(pa.gov\)](#)
    - iii. Additionally, feed mills should provide a list of premises that poultry feed is provided to in the control area to [RA-AG-PAPERMITTS@pa.gov](mailto:RA-AG-PAPERMITTS@pa.gov). The control area includes the 10 kilometer area surrounding an infected premises.
  - (2). **Washed and Sanitized Eggs**, unless being moved to another state that requires permitted movements.
  - (3). **Clean litter/shavings**
- ☐ The premises of origin and/or destination must have a federal premises ID.
- ☐ The premises of origin and/or destination may need to have an approved biosecurity plan prior to obtaining movement permits. To determine when a biosecurity plan is needed for a permit, refer to the permitting guidance table on the PADLS website at [Permit Guidance Table](#); or contact the permitting section at :[RA-AG-PAPERMITTS@pa.gov](mailto:RA-AG-PAPERMITTS@pa.gov) or call 717-772-2852, and choose option 1, followed by option 4.
- ☐ **Biosecurity Plan Requirements:** There are now two options for certain non-commercial poultry premises to meet the biosecurity plan requirements when needed for obtaining a movement permit (new September 2023):
  - a. **Option 1** is a written biosecurity plan that follows the NPIP Program Standard E format and has been reviewed and approved by PDA.

- Biosecurity plan templates are available at [NPIPStandardEBiosecurityPlanTemplate.pdf \(pa.gov\)](#) and [HatcherySampleBiosecurityPlan.pdf \(pa.gov\)](#)
- An example of a commercial flock biosecurity plan is available at: [SampleCommBasicBiosecurityPlan.pdf \(pa.gov\)](#)
- Submit a plan in the proper format to [RA-AGBIOSECURITYPLAN@pa.gov](mailto:RA-AGBIOSECURITYPLAN@pa.gov) for evaluation.
- **This is required if the poultry premises meets the commercial size requirement as specified below or has a flock of any size containing waterfowl.** Non-commercial premises are encouraged to submit an approved biosecurity plan using this template along with a permit application.

Bird Type	Number
Commercial Layers and pullets	75,000 or more birds on premises at one time
Commercial Broilers	Raise 100,000 or more/year
Commercial Meat Turkeys	Raise 30,000 or more/year
Commercial Upland Game Birds/ Commercial Waterfowl	Raise 25,000 or more/year
All Breeder Flocks (all types)	5,000 breeder birds or more on premises at one time

- b. **Option 2** is acknowledging and signing the applicable Secure Poultry Supply (SPS) plan permit guidance document which applies to the species related to the permit application.
- The signed SPS plan permit guidance document must be attached to the permit request to avoid delays in obtaining an approved permit.
  - Signature acknowledgement of adherence to the SPS biosecurity guidance document can be used for non-commercial flocks of the following species: layers, pullets, broilers, meat turkeys, and upland gamebirds, if a biosecurity plan is not currently approved.
  - There is currently no written SPS plan for waterfowl — use option 1 (above) and if you have questions, please contact the permitting unit for additional information at [RA-AG-PAPERMITS@pa.gov](mailto:RA-AG-PAPERMITS@pa.gov) or call 717-772-2852, and choose option 1, followed by option 4.

**The Department may require an on-farm biosecurity audit before approving a permit request for any premises.**

- ☐ Because proximity to an infected premises is identified as a highly significant risk factor for farms to become infected with HPAI during an outbreak, USDA discourages movement of live birds into an Infected Zone (3 km around an infected premises), and will not accept claims for indemnity for premises on which birds are placed in an Infected Zone if the flock is infected before 14 days have passed after the date the Control Area is released. Movements of birds into a Buffer Zone (3-10 km around an infected premises) may be eligible for indemnity provided that a successful on-site biosecurity audit is performed as a condition of the movement permit.
- ☐ For permitting questions, contact the permitting section at: [RA-AG-PAPERMITS@pa.gov](mailto:RA-AG-PAPERMITS@pa.gov) or call 717-772-2852, and choose option 1, followed by option 4.
- ☐ For specific product permit guidance, refer to the HPAI PA Permit Guidance Table on the PADLS website at [HPAI PA Permit Guidance Table](#)
- ☐ More permitting information, including guidelines for requesting a permit, is available on the PADLS website at [Permitting Information](#)

#### **M. Control Area Release**

- ☐ Release of the Control Area (including the release of associated movement controls and permit requirements) is allowed when all the following conditions have been met:
  - The Infected Premises that established the Control Area has been depopulated; the compost pile has been set (capped), or mortality buried, or mortality removed from premises for appropriate disposal.
  - Successful initial virus elimination activities on the Infected Premises are completed (including, but not limited to, outside areas of premises, equipment, trucks, and other potential fomites used in depopulation and disposal activities). This does not include barn interiors.
  - Required surveillance in the Control Area has been completed and there is no evidence of HPAI infection in the Control Area. Premises that are affected by overlapping Control Areas will follow the timeline for the last Control Area scheduled for release.

#### **N. Important links and phone numbers**

- ☐ Sick Bird Reporting Line: 717-772-2852, option 1 (24/7)
- ☐ Biosecurity plan submission: [RA-AGBIOSECURITYPLAN@pa.gov](mailto:RA-AGBIOSECURITYPLAN@pa.gov)
- ☐ Premises registration or premises ID questions: [RA-PREMISE-ID@PA.GOV](mailto:RA-PREMISE-ID@PA.GOV) or call 717-772-2852, and choose option 5

- ☐ Permitting questions: [RA-AG-PAPERMITS@pa.gov](mailto:RA-AG-PAPERMITS@pa.gov) or call 717-772-2852, and choose option 1, followed by option 4. More permitting information is located under the *Permitting tab* on the PADLS website at [PADLS HPAI Permitting Information](#)
- ☐ The USDA EMRS Gateway is recommended for anyone who needs a movement permit. Instructions for applying for a permit are located under the *Permitting tab* on the PADLS website. [PADLS HPAI Permitting Information](#)
- ☐ For specific product permit guidance, refer to the HPAI PA Permit Guidance Table on the PADLS website; [HPAI PA Permit Guidance Table](#)
- ☐ Control Zone Address Checker Map on the PADLS website: [Control Zone Address Checker Map](#)
- ☐ Additional HPAI Response Information—USDA APHIS: [HPAI Response Documents- USDA](#) (<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/emergency-management/hpai/fadprep-hpai>)