



May 18, 2018

To: All California State/County/City Personnel

Subject: Field Biosecurity Guidelines for State/County/City Personnel Entering Shell Egg Packing Facilities, Poultry Harvest Facilities, and Poultry Farms

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) has detected virulent Newcastle disease (VND) in a small, backyard flock of exhibition chickens in Los Angeles County. The detection has been confirmed by the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS).

CDFA is working with federal and local partners as well as poultry owners to respond to the finding. State officials have quarantined potentially exposed birds and are testing for the disease.

We request your assistance and cooperation in preventing the spread of this devastating poultry disease by following some simple biosecurity precautions. These precautions will reduce the risk of introducing and spreading VND, and significantly reduce similar risks associated with many poultry diseases found every day in California. State, County, City, and private inspectors and auditors should adhere to the following:

- 1) Do not enter farms where eggs are hatched or poultry are raised (poultry farm) if you have birds or live poultry at home.
- 2) Never visit any poultry farm within 72 hours after visiting another commercial poultry farm, egg or meat processor, after duck hunting or having had other exposure to wild migratory water fowl, or visiting any backyard, school, feed store, swap meet, live bird market, pet store, fair, veterinary clinic, zoo, bird hunt club, or other facility which has live poultry or birds.\*
- 3) Limit visits to one poultry farm every 72 hours. This applies to processing facilities when they are associated with a poultry farm.\*
- 4) Always wash your vehicle before entering a farm/egg processing facility. A commercial car wash can be used for this purpose. Park your vehicle in designated area per company's biosecurity plan or if none, try to park on cement or paved area away from production houses. Keep the inside of the vehicle clean and free of any organic material.
- 5) Use good personal hygiene measures including freshly laundered clothes and showering before visiting a poultry farm or processing facility. Clothing that has been worn to premises with birds or live poultry should *never* be worn to another farm or processing facility without being laundered between visits.\*



- 6) Never enter a poultry farm unless trained to apply and remove (don and doff) biosecurity clothing without spreading disease. If entering live bird areas, use clean, dedicated rubber boots or disposable plastic shoe covers, disposable coveralls, and a hair net. Use disposable gloves and a mask as directed by the company being inspected.
- 7) ALWAYS follow all the biosecurity instructions of the commercial poultry farm/egg processing facility including, but not limited to: registering in a logbook, answering queries about bird and poultry premises visited previously, disinfecting shoes or changing into dedicated footwear, and cleaning and disinfecting of vehicle wheel wells if they must enter a premises.

*\*Exceptions to this rule are acceptable ONLY if a company with multiple farms and/or egg processing facilities prefers that the inspector visit several of its locations within the three day period. The request should be documented in the inspection records.*

**TO REPEAT THE MOST IMPORTANT POLICY: Always comply with the personnel entry and disinfection procedures required by company policies. These procedures may include signing in and out, use of tire/truck wash stations, company supplied protective clothing and footwear, footbaths, hand cleaning stations, and other bio-security measures.**

Remember, people, equipment, and vehicles can easily spread dangerous diseases from one location to another. State and local government personnel could be held responsible if it is found that personnel spread disease to poultry premises. CDFA appreciates your efforts to help us prevent a repeat of the disastrous END outbreak from 2002-2003 and to protect poultry health in California on a daily basis. Please do your part to protect the poultry industry, our nation's food supply, and California's agricultural businesses.

Sincerely,



Annette Jones, D.V.M.  
State Veterinarian and Director