

**Breathitt Veterinary Center**

**Reportable Poultry Disease Information**

**HIGH MORTALITY or RESPIRATORY or CNS SIGNS**

  

CONTACT YOUR STATE VET – DO NOT MOVE LIVE BIRDS

**Reportable Diseases** – Never move a live bird with the possible reportable disease. Contact the office of your state veterinarian and/or state lab for information on testing and quarantine. Transport dead birds or collected samples in sealed bag to diagnostic lab immediately for reportable disease testing. See OIE link below for additional diseases that may be reportable in your state.

**Most Important Reportable Poultry Diseases -**

**Avian Influenza** – Ranges from low to high mortality/ asymptomatic to severe respiratory symptoms.

Low pathogenic (LPAI)– ranges from no to low mortality. Mild respiratory signs.

High Pathogenic (HPAI)– high mortality; respiratory signs. Possible zoonotic problem.

**Newcastle Disease** (NDV)– High virulence strains are reportable – Respiratory signs (gasping, coughing, sneezing, and rales), neurologic (tremors, partial to complete paralysis, twisted necks, circling, clonic spasms), and watery diarrhea.

Necropsy lesions - Petechiae may be seen on the serous membranes; hemorrhages of the proventricular mucosa and intestinal serosa are accompanied by multifocal, necrotic hemorrhagic areas on the mucosal surface of the intestine, especially at lymphoid foci such as cecal tonsils. Splenic necrosis and hemorrhage and edema around the thymus may also be seen.

**Infectious Laryngotracheitis** (ILT)– Respiratory signs with raspy coughing, shaking head with mucoid (often bloody) discharge/exudate in trachea.

**Samples to Collect**-

**Available testing** **for AI and NDV**– ELISA screening, HI for verification, PCR for confirmation or acute illness.

**Available testing for ILT - PCR**

**ELISA and HI** – serum – test all birds in smaller flock; 20 in larger flocks.

How to collect blood samples : <https://extension.psu.edu/blood-collection-from-poultry>

**PCR**  - confirmation test or when infection is very acute. This test detects the genetics of the organism and may be positive before the serologic antibody testing. Collect swabs in BHI broth or drops of sterile saline from choana/oropharynx or cloaca (AI - waterfowl) for Avian influenza, Newcastle, or Infectious Laryngotracheitis PCR.

Swabs can be pooled in groups of 6 for one test.

How to collect swabs : <https://www.hyline.com/userdocs/pages/TU_SER3_ENG.pdf>

**Resources:**

OIE Listed Diseases (World Organization for Animal Health)

<http://www.oie.int/animal-health-in-the-world/oie-listed-diseases-2019/>

USDA/APHIS List of Reportable Diseases

<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/nvap/NVAP-Reference-Guide/Animal-Health-Emergency-Management/Notifiable-Diseases-and-Conditions>

There are many non-reportable diseases that cause similar symptoms.

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