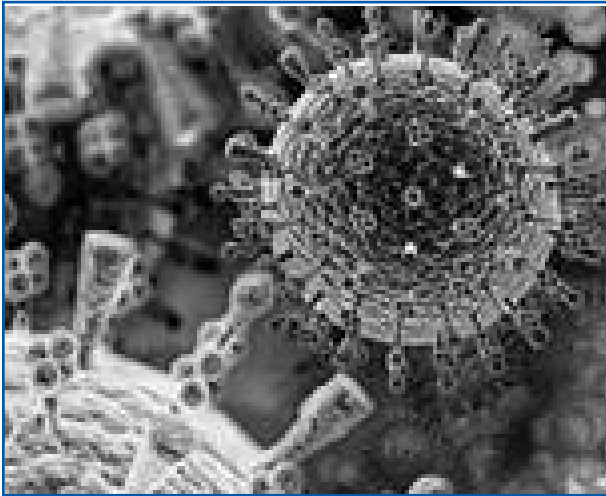


What is avian influenza?

Avian influenza (bird flu) is an infectious disease of birds, caused by an Influenza Type A virus. Despite its name, the virus is sometimes carried by pigs. In birds, the infection can cause symptoms ranging from mild illness to death. Water-fowl (e.g. wild ducks) are the natural hosts of the virus and they are usually more resistant to infection. However, in other birds, particularly domestic poultry such as chickens and turkeys, fatal epidemics of the disease can spread quickly.



How does it spread?

Large amounts of the virus are present in the secretions and droppings of infected birds which can contaminate food, soil and drinking water. The virus can spread by mechanical means (e.g. on contaminated bodies, equipment, vehicles, cages, food and clothing) and can survive in the environment for some time. Susceptible birds become infected when they inhale contaminated airborne particles or ingest the virus (e.g. by eating food contaminated with an infected birds droppings).

Can it infect people?

While transmission to humans is rare, there have been instances where humans have contracted the virus, in some cases resulting in fatalities. The main route of infection is considered to be through direct contact with infected poultry or through contact with surfaces contaminated by their feces (e.g. surfaces used to slaughter poultry or prepare them for cooking).

So far, the ability of avian influenza to spread from person to person seems limited. However, there is great concern that the virus could mutate or combine with a human influenza virus to form a new flu virus that spreads rapidly from person to person. Since humans would have no immunity against this new strain, it could quickly reach pandemic proportions.



What are the symptoms of avian flu?

In humans, the H5N1 strain of avian influenza responsible for the recent outbreaks has caused effects ranging from typical flu-like symptoms (e.g. fever, cough, sore throat, muscle aches) to eye infections, pneumonia, acute respiratory distress, and in others, life-threatening complications and death.

I work with poultry. How can I protect my employees and myself from avian flu?

- Instill rigorous hygiene practices, such as frequent hand washing and surface cleaning and disinfection.
- Immediately report any sick or dying birds to local health authorities.
- Immediately report any suspected cases of avian flu in employees to local health authorities.
- Have emergency supplies, contact information for local and national health authorities, and emergency contacts for all employees readily available.
- Develop a contingency plan for your business and finances.



What can I do if I suspect, or find, avian flu in my workplace?

- Immediately report the case to your local health authorities.
- Avoid contact with infected birds. Quarantine or destroy infected birds, as guided by local authorities, to help prevent spread to other facilities, people or birds.
- Adhere to stringent hygiene practices to prevent transmission via equipment and surfaces contaminated with body fluids from infected birds.
- Wear protective clothing at all times.
- Dispose of bird carcasses carefully.



What are basic hygiene practices that can prevent the spread of avian flu?

- Washing your hands frequently, especially before or after handling poultry, eating or cooking.
- Frequently clean and disinfect surfaces that come in contact with poultry, or are touched by those who do, such as machinery and door handles.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing.

Does hand washing kill bird flu?

Keeping your hands clean is one of the best ways to prevent the spread of germs and illnesses. Proper hand washing will effectively remove dirt and germs. Antimicrobial hand washes can provide an added measure of protection. Wash your hands using soap and warm running water. Scrub your hands for a minimum of 20 seconds ensuring that all areas have been washed properly, including between the fingers, under the nails and the backs of your hands. Dry with a clean paper towel or air dryer. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol based wipe or hand gel.



and Avian Flu

The EPA has registered Lysol Disinfectant Spray as effective in killing influenza A on hard, non-porous surfaces. Lysol Disinfectant Spray is effective against a broad spectrum of pathogens including viruses such as rhinovirus, rotavirus, RSV and influenza A. The product recently received approval from the Environmental Protection Agency for claims against influenza A, avian H1N1. The use sites for this product against avian influenza are restricted to poultry areas and places where birds are kept. It is not intended for general use as there are no known human cases of avian influenza in the United States at this time.

Avian Flu and the Workplace

Questions and Answers for You and Your Employees



To download a copy of this brochure or for more information: www.lysol.com/avian_flu