



## Secondary Steps

Event organizers can add an extra layer of safety by:

Requesting that exhibitors **block their flock**. Participating birds should be kept in a closed flock away from other birds for 14 days prior to the event to reduce the likelihood that sick birds attend. When returning home, participating birds should be quarantined for 14 days. In the event that a bird attending a fair catches a disease, it reduces the chance of spread to the remaining flock.

### Print and post.

Download our event posters and backyard bird biosecurity infographic to post at your event. Available on our website or by email.



## Additional Resources

For more information about Avian Influenza Virus and for shareable resources with fair attendees, please visit our website.



<https://qrcodes.pro/dsqpFz>

## Contact Us

For general inquiries, contact the Ministry of Agriculture and Food's Animal Health Centre.



1-800-661-9903



PAHB@gov.bc.ca



<https://www2.gov.bc.ca>



Ministry of  
Agriculture  
and Food



# PREPARE FOR THE FAIR

*Hosting a healthy poultry  
event this summer*



## Fun at the Fair

Poultry events are important community gatherings for knowledge sharing and networking. But bringing together poultry and people can unintentionally allow for viruses such as Avian Influenza to spread. Thankfully there are several simple steps fair organizers can take to keep attendees healthy and safe.

## Avian Influenza Virus

Avian Influenza Virus is carried by migratory waterbirds. It can also infect poultry such as chickens, guinea fowl, quails, and turkeys. Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza can cause serious illness and death in poultry. Symptoms also include:



Drop in egg production



Lack of appetite



Swelling of head, neck, and eyes



Nasal discharge



Diarrhea



Decreased energy and movement



Coughing, gasping, sneezing

## Close Encounters of the Feathered Kind

Avian Influenza Virus is spread among birds through close contact between infected and healthy birds. In rare cases, people can also become infected from contact with infected birds.

*The best way to prevent illness is to reduce close contact among flocks and between people and poultry.*

## Priority Practices

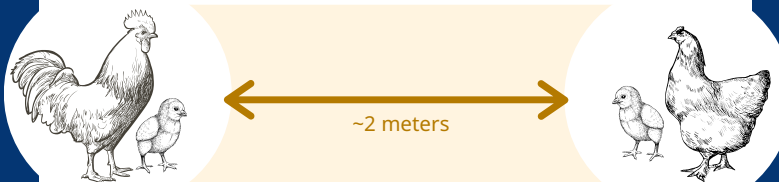
There are **5** important actions organizers can take to ensure a healthy poultry event.

### Avoid fowl play: Keep sick birds away.

To prevent the virus from entering your event, advise exhibitors in advance to leave sick birds and birds from flocks showing signs of illness at home. To ensure that all birds entering the fair are healthy, check birds when they arrive and immediately send sick birds home.

### Distance measures for healthy fethers.

Because the virus is spread among birds through close contact, birds from different premises should be spaced apart.



**Dedicated fair wear.** The virus is also spread through contaminated clothing and shoes. Encourage exhibitors and fair attendees to wear clean clothes and shoes to the fair.



**Leave birds undisturbed.** Hand hygiene is critical for reducing health risks for poultry and people. Public attendees should refrain from handling birds. In cases where handling birds is necessary, handlers should use clean gloves and wash hands between birds.

**Don't share at the fair.** Avian influenza can even be spread on equipment such as cages, waterers, and feeders. Encourage exhibitors to only use their own supplies to reduce the chance of illness spreading among premises. Equipment should be disinfected before and after attending the event.

## Did you know...

Avian influenza is federally reportable. Outbreaks are managed by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency.

To assist with outbreak management, poultry event organizers can maintain exhibitor contact information and a site map of exhibitor locations for 2 months following the event.