



AnimalHealthCanada

GUIDANCE FOR EXHIBITION ORGANIZERS TO PREVENT HIGHLY PATHOGENIC AVIAN INFLUENZA (HPAI) A (H5N1) SPREAD TO CATTLE

BACKGROUND

The information provided here are recommended precautionary measures aimed at preventing transmission of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) A (H5N1) virus.

- HPAI (including A (H5N1)) is a federally reportable disease in Canada. As of the time of this publication, there have been no detections of A (H5N1) in Canada in dairy cattle, but the disease has been circulating in the United States.
- In settings where people and animals from different places gather closely, such as exhibitions, there is a higher likelihood of infectious diseases spreading, such as influenza viruses.
- There has been spillover of avian influenza A (H5N1) from wild birds to dairy cattle with subsequent spread across several U.S. states which has resulted in mammal-to-mammal transmission – between cows and from cows to cats and other animals.
- Some influenza viruses can also be transmitted from animals (such as pigs, poultry, goats, and cattle) to humans and vice versa.
- The primary way people can contract influenza viruses from animals is through close contact with infected animals.
- While cases of human infection from these viruses are rare, illness can range from mild to severe, sometimes resulting in hospitalization or even leading to death.
- Attendees at exhibitions should take precautions to prevent the transmission of infectious diseases like influenza between animals and between animals and humans.

Here are some key recommendations:

BEFORE THE EXHIBITION

1. Require that:

- participating animals are in good health.
animals that have been to a location (e.g., state, province, etc.) with known positive HPAI A (H5N1) herds or showing clinical signs of potential infectious, contagious, or communicable diseases (in the past 60 days) should NOT be allowed entry to any exhibition.
- participating dairy cattle must test negative for highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) A (H5N1) with an approved screening test within 7 days of movement, prior to arrival at the exhibition site. For cows coming from the United States, see the import and testing requirements for animals participating in the fairs and exhibitions.
- exhibitors must provide the following information:
 - Contact information (names, address, farm premise ID, phone number, and email) so they can be easily reached if needed.
 - Physical address of animal's farm of origin.
 - Premise ID and official individual identification of each animal they are bringing to the exhibition and report the move in and out of the fair to DairyTrace or SimpliTrace.

2. Ensure that you have:

- mechanism in place to:
 - record/confirm HPAI A(H5N1) test results.
 - record if vehicles and equipment used for transporting animals are thoroughly cleaned and disinfected before and after use.
- an established cleanable manure collection site or sites to contain bedding/manure/urine.
- a designated area where parents of young children can leave strollers, diaper bags and other items during visits to animal-contact areas.

3. Make sure that there is a veterinarian on-site or on-call to handle any animal health concerns or emergencies.

4. Provide

- awareness on principles of biosecurity to staff, volunteers, exhibitors, and everyone attending your exhibitions at the time of registration.
- information about isolation procedures if an animal gets sick on site and communication strategies (or an emergency response plan, if available) for managing a potential HPAI A(H5N1) outbreak, or other communicable disease of animals during the events.

5. Schedule different entry hours for dairy cattle and other species or have a structured check-in process in collaboration with your on-site veterinarian.

6. Plan to:

- house different species at an established distance or in different areas of the exhibition and if possible, leave an empty pen between animals from different herds of the same species.
- exhibit different species on different days of the exhibition with cleaning and disinfection between exit and entry.

7. Communicate to exhibitors at the time of registration:

- that anyone who is sick or is experiencing symptoms of illness (e.g., fever, cough, runny nose, sore throat, vomiting, diarrhea, etc.) should stay at home. The use of well-fitting masks (N95s) can reduce the risk of transmission of disease to both the wearer and others in asymptomatic individuals.

8. Post prominent signage in simple and easy to understand formats for visitors to see before they enter areas where animals are housed with warnings such as:

- do not touch animals except in exhibit areas where you are allowed to do so.
- animals that appear healthy can carry germs that can make people sick.
- elderly adults, pregnant women, immunocompromised individuals, and young children are more likely to become ill from contact with animals.
- young children (under 5 years) and individuals with intellectual disabilities should be supervised in all animal exhibit areas.

- - people with respiratory illness or other infectious diseases can sometimes infect animals. Think twice about attending if you are feeling unwell. A well-fitting mask (N95 or other) can protect you and others.
 - avoid eating, drinking, putting things in your mouth in animal areas.
 - wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water or use hand sanitizer after all animal contact.
 - food, beverages, strollers, baby bottles, pacifiers, and children's toys are not recommended in animal exhibit areas. Consume food and beverages in designated areas only.

9. Designate:

- an isolation area away from other animals and public display for any animal that get develops signs of illness at the show. Isolation areas should not share confined air space, panels/fence lines, feeding, or watering space with other animals.
- an area for milking, milk storage, and milk disposal. collection points for used PPEs with clearly marked bins for different types of PPE (e.g., masks, gloves, gowns, etc.).

10. Familiarize staff and volunteers who might get close to animals with the signs of influenza in dairy cows (e.g., decreased milk production, appetite, and rumen motility, thick or discolored milk, lethargy, fever, and/or dehydration, signs of mastitis in 1 or more quarters, dry manure, constipation, nasal discharges, or diarrhea in some cases).

DURING THE EXHIBITION

1. Set up cleaning and disinfection stations at all entry and exit points for vehicles, people, equipment, and personnel. Be sure to follow the established guidelines in your jurisdiction. Here are common components that may be included in such a station:

- 2. Install** hand-washing stations with soap and water and provide alcohol-based hand sanitizers with minimum 60% alcohol content throughout the venue, especially near animal enclosures.
- 3. Post and provide** exhibitors and other participants with educational materials about HPAI A(H5N1) and biosecurity recommendations as they arrive.
- 4. Restrict** access to animal areas to authorized personnel only and monitor entry points to prevent unauthorized access.
- 5. Conduct** routine health checks of all animals throughout the event.
- 6. Minimize** direct contact between animals from different herds or design stall assignments to limit direct contact between cattle.
- 7. Recommend** that exhibitors use clean, dedicated equipment for feeding and watering animals to prevent cross-contamination. Discourage exhibitors from sharing equipment with each other. If shared equipment is required, clean and disinfect it between every use. See the list of approved disinfectants and contact time that are effective against H5N1 for surfaces and equipment.
- 8. Limit** co-mingling of cows from different herds to the extent possible and ensure each animal uses a designated stall. Follow organized times for moving to exhibition areas.
- 9. Restrict** direct contact between visitors and animals.
- 10. Ensure** there is adequate ventilation, temperature control and access to potable water in barns to reduce animal stress and help prevent disease transmission.
- 11. Recommend** the following regarding milking:
 - Prohibit milking of lactating dairy cattle in areas that are directly accessible to the public or other animals.
 - Use a barrier to keep the public at least 10 feet away from the cow.
 - Disinfect equipment between cows.
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 - Thorough handwashing after handling animals or

- - Use of recommended protective clothing, such as gloves, and boot covers, for all personnel handling animals or animal waste (bedding, feces, discarded milk, etc.).
 - Do not allow exhibitors to offer raw milk to visitors or other animals.

12. Provide water for cleaning and an appropriate place to dispose of milk.

AFTER THE EXHIBITION

- 1. Properly** dispose of used and unused bedding, hay, and other feed, and ensure all pens and stalls are cleaned and disinfected.
- 2. Require** that all exhibitors leave the stalls clean and clear of bedding/debris and it must be disposed of at a specified location.
- 3. Clean** and disinfect exhibition areas thoroughly following an established cleaning and disinfection protocol, especially in areas where animals are housed and exhibited.
- 4. Ensure** used PPE collected are disposed of in accordance with provincial/national hazardous waste regulations.
- 5. Recommend** a post-exhibition quarantine for returning animals to monitor for any delayed onset of illness.
- 6. Encourage** exhibitors and attendees to consult their health care provider if they or their family members or personnel develop signs of illness (e.g., fever or chills, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, muscle or body aches, headaches, tiredness, conjunctivitis, and/or vomiting and diarrhea) after the exhibit and inform their healthcare provider of their animal exposure history.
- 7. Meet** with your team to debrief on what went well and what can be improved for future events.

This guidance document was created in collaboration with several provincial chief veterinary officers, industry, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, and the Public Health Agency of Canada. The information in this document is subject to change based on emerging cases and regulatory guidance.

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info@animalhealthcanada.ca
www.animalhealthcanada.ca

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

1. <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/livestock-poultry-disease/avian/avian-influenza/hpai-detections/livestock>
2. <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/sites/default/files/guidance-dairy-cattle-livestock-exhibition.pdf>
3. <https://inspection.canada.ca/en/animal-health/terrestrial-animals/diseases/reportable/avian-influenza/latest-bird-flu-situation/actions-producers-can-take-prevent-spread-highly-pathogenic-avian-influenza-hpai-cattle>
4. [Approved surface disinfectants for emerging viral pathogens in Canada.](#)
5. [Highly pathogenic avian influenza \(HPAI\) in cattle - inspection.canada.ca](#)
6. <https://www.bah.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/documents/Biosecurity-for-Exhibitors.pdf>
7. [Learn about handwashing – https://umash.umn.edu/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/Handwashing-Poster.pdf](#)
8. [Enhanced Biosecurity Resources for Producers - https://securemilksupply.org/milk-producers/biosecurity/](#)
9. [Biosecurity – Holstein Québec \(holsteinquebec.com\)](#)
10. [Considerations and Information for Fair Exhibitors to Help Prevent Influenza | Influenza in Animals | CDC](#)
11. [Government of Canada – Clean your hands to help reduce the spread of infectious diseases: https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/healthy-living/hand-hygiene.html](#)
12. [Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety \(CCOHS\) - Good Hygiene Practices – Reducing the Spread of Infectious Diseases and Viruses https://www.ccohs.ca/oshanswers/diseases/good_hygiene.html](#)
13. [CCOHS – How to Protect Yourself from Avian Influenza A\(H5N1\) at Work infographic: CCOHS: How to Protect Yourself from Avian Influenza A\(H5N1\) at Work](#)
14. [CCOHS – Avian Influenza: CCOHS: Avian Influenza](#)
15. [Government of Canada – Avian Influenza A\(H5N1\): Symptoms and treatment: https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/avian-influenza-h5n1.html](#)
16. [Commercial milk sampling and testing for highly pathogenic avian influenza \(HPAI\) viral fragments in Canada - inspection.canada.ca](#)
17. <https://www.aabp.org/committees/resources/VaccGuidelines2021.pdf>
18. [HPAI in Dairy Cattle | Department of Agriculture \(colorado.gov\)](#)
19. [Avian flu in humans | Department of Public Health & Environment \(colorado.gov\)](#)
20. [Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Detected in Oklahoma Dairy Herd – ODAFF](#)