MULTI-AGENCY RESPONSE TO A HIGHLY PATHOGENIC AVIAN INFLUENZA ANIMAL EMERGENCY

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This plan is coordinated by the Washington Department of Agriculture, the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife, the Washington Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory, the Washington Department of Health, the U.S. Department of Agriculture Wildlife Services, the U.S. Department of Agriculture -Veterinary Services, and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

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PURPOSE

The purpose of this document is to outline the roles, responsibilities, and communication structure of local, state, and federal agencies during a highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) animal disease emergency. Due to the risk of Low Pathogenic Avian Influenza (LPAI) mutating to HPAI, the response to LPAI will also utilize this plan.

SITUATION

Due to the inherent properties of avian influenza, this virus has the potential to impact wild waterfowl, captive wild birds, domestic poultry, swine, humans, and potentially other mammals. To effectively respond to this disease, it is imperative that all relevant agencies have a common operating procedure and communication plan. This plan works to define the roles, responsibilities, and risk communication issues during a HPAI or LPAI outbreak.

HPAI IN BIRDS

In December of 2014, Washington was the first state to have a confirmed case of HPAI virus in a captive gyrfalcon. From December 2015 to mid-June of 2015, United State Department of Agriculture (USDA) confirmed infections in U.S. domestic poultry (backyard and commercial flocks), captive wild birds, and wild birds in 21 states. In January of 2016, the USDA confirmed an outbreak of HPAI H7N8 in a commercial turkey flock in Indiana. Millions of domestic poultry have died or have been culled during these recent outbreaks. Multiple wild bird mortality events have also been associated with this virus. For more information, see the USDA pages "Avian Influenza Overview": *https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-disease-information/avian-influenza-disease/defend-the-flock/defend-the-flock-ai-overview*

and

"Avian Influenza and Wild Birds": *https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-disease-information/avian-influenza-disease/defend-the-flock/defend-the-flock-ai-wild-birds*

HPAI IN HUMANS

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the health risk posed to the general public by domestic HPAI outbreaks is low, but there is possibility that human infections could occur.

Avian Influenza A viruses typically do not infect humans, though rare cases of human infection with these viruses have been reported where the illnesses have ranged from mild to severe. Rare human infections have occurred after unprotected contact with infected birds or contaminated surfaces, although there have been infections where direct contact was not known to have occurred. Infected birds shed avian influenza virus in their saliva, mucous and feces. Human infections with bird flu viruses can happen when enough virus gets into a person's eyes, nose, mouth, or is inhaled. HPAI can be aerosolized from infected flocks and remain airborne. Viable HPAI virus has been detected in an air sample collected inside an affected barn.

According to CDC, person-to-person transmission of avian influenza viruses has been reported only very rarely, and transmission has been limited, inefficient, and not sustained. However, it is possible that viruses could change and gain the ability to move more readily from person to person; thus, monitoring

for human infection and person-to-person transmission is critical. For more on HPAI in humans, see the CDC page: *http://www.cdc.gov/flu/avianflu/avian-in-humans.htm .*

STATE AVIAN INFLUENZA SURVEILLANCE PLANS

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) has an avian health surveillance plan. The Washington Department of Agriculture (WSDA), Washington State Department of Health (DOH), and other state and federal agencies have avian influenza response plans. DOH also has a pandemic influenza response plan (see Attachment B for references to all plans).

FEDERAL AVIAN INFLUENZA SURVEILLANCE PLANS

U.S. Interagency Strategic Plan for Early Detection and Monitoring for Avian Influenzas of Significance in Wild Birds—describes a unified national system for migratory wild bird sampling involving federal, state, university and non-governmental organizations.

The 2015 Surveillance Plan for Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in Waterfowl in the United States as well as the 2016-2017 Wild Bird Surveillance Plan — outlines specific wild bird surveillance efforts. These efforts were led by the Interagency Steering Committee for Surveillance for HPAI in Wild Birds. This committee is comprised of experts from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), the Department of the Interior's (DOI) U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (US FWS), the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), CDC, and the National Flyway Council.

ASSUMPTIONS

Avian influenza is an animal disease, not a human disease. However, there have been a limited number of human cases, most associated with close contact with infected poultry.

Avian influenza could be introduced into Washington birds by several different routes including migrating birds, illegally imported infected birds or their products.

If a genetic re-assortment or mutation of the avian influenza virus occurs, it could easily become a transmissible disease from human to humans, causing an influenza pandemic.

Local, state and federal agencies must work together to send a clear, concise and correct public message concerning the possible effects of this animal disease.

The Incident Command System will be utilized to respond to all HPAI outbreaks in the state of Washington, whether in domestic or wild bird populations.

CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

Because of international trading partner agreements, approved diagnostic facilities must report the discovery of HPAI subtypes H5 or H7 to the appropriate federal and state agencies immediately upon confirmation. The nature of this disease, which has the ability to spread from wildlife to domestic birds, will dictate who has the lead role in any response.

In the case of an HPAI diagnosis in a wild bird population, the USDA and WSDA, in cooperation with WDFW would coordinate state activities. WDFW will coordinate with state and federal wildlife agencies to establish and conduct a wildlife bird surveillance plan.

In the case of a HPAI diagnosis in a domesticated poultry population, WSDA and USDA would be in unified command and would be directing state activities.

In all cases of HPAI in birds, DOH will serve in a support role to protect public health and safety and to provide accurate information to the public regarding human health risks. It is agreed that communication and cooperation among all agencies described in this document is integral to a successful response.

MULTI-AGENCY COORDINATION GROUP

With a positive diagnosis of HPAI in domestic poultry in the state of Washington, the lead agency will establish a Multi-Agency Coordination Group (MAC-G) to allow input from other local, state, and federal agencies that have the legal responsibility for the protection of animal and human health.

Membership of this group will consist of representatives of the following agencies:

- Washington State Department of Agriculture;
- Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife;
- Washington State Department of Health
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service;
- U.S. Department of Agriculture;
- Washington Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory (WADDL)
- Affected local health jurisdiction

HPAI OF WILD BIRD ORIGIN

In the case of a confirmed positive test for HPAI in a ***wild bird*** in any location in the Pacific Flyway, the WSDA State Veterinarian, the USDA Assistant Director and a WDFW and/or USFW representative will convene to assess the situation and decide if further action is warranted. These recommendations will be forwarded immediately to the Incident Command, if established, or to the agencies conducting surveillance

HPAI OF DOMESTIC POULTRY ORIGIN

In the case of a confirmed positive test for notifiable HPAI in domestic poultry in Washington, the MAC-G will convene immediately by teleconference to assess the situation, establish response objectives and priorities, assure a standard message is shared with the general public, and to formulate technical recommendations for specific state redirection on established surveillance. These recommendations will be forwarded immediately to the Incident Command, if established, or to the agencies conducting surveillance.

HUMAN TRANSMISSION

In the event that an outbreak of HPAI in poultry spread to humans through zoonosis, the Washington DOH Disease Epidemiology program would consult closely with CDC, and depending on the situation may request that CDC staff come to Washington State to assist via an Epi-Aid. In the event of human cases, DOH would enhance surveillance for additional cases and would work closely with LHJs,

healthcare providers, emergency responders and others to ensure awareness of the transmission to humans and awareness and usage of appropriate testing, treatment, prophylaxis and infection control practices as indicated. Depending on the scope of the human transmission, extensive media may be warranted.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF RESPONDING AGENCIES

WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

The WSDA is the agency with primary responsibility for avian influenza control in domesticated poultry within the state of Washington.

ACTIONS BEFORE HPAI IS DIAGNOSED IN NORTH AMERICA

- Collect samples from domestic and game bird flocks to test for both HPAI and LPAI subtypes H5 and H7 throughout Washington. Testing will follow the USDA surveillance plan for subtypes H5 and H7.
- Keep all HPAI and LPAI response plans up to date.
- Provide public information and education efforts to small, backyard flock owners, and domestic bird owners on ways to protect their birds from infection and what signs and symptoms to look for.

ACTIONS IF HPAI IS DIAGNOSED IN WILD BIRDS IN NORTH AMERICA

- If HPAI is discovered anywhere in the Pacific Flyway, appoint a representative to the MAC-G that convenes to review surveillance guidelines.
- Increase public information and education efforts for commercial poultry producers, small or backyard flock owners, and domestic bird owners about the importance of good biosecurity measures and symptoms to be aware of in the event of an infection of their flock.
- Evaluate the need to restrict traffic of animals, equipment, food, etc. arriving from other states or within specified areas in Washington.
- Coordinate any suspicious activity through the Washington Fusion Center and the Office of the Inspector General.

ACTIONS BY WSDA IF HPAI IS DIAGNOSED IN DOMESTIC BIRDS IN WASHINGTON

- Activate the Appendix B (State Animal Response Plan) of Emergency Support Function (ESF) 11 to the Washington State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP), the Joint Incident Communications Plan (Attachment A of this plan) and the WSDA Initial State Response and Containment Plan for Low Pathogenic Avian Influenza and Emergency Poultry Disease Plan.
- Coordinate with USDA to determine the scope and level of initial response needed, initiate a MAC-G, establish a unified command structure between USDA and WSDA, and request an Incident Management Team (IMT) through the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) or the USDA.
- Coordinate with the following additional agencies as needed for assistance in controlling the outbreak:

  - Washington Military Department, Emergency Management Division (EMD);
  - Washington State Reserve Veterinary Corps (RVC);
  - Washington State One Health Group;
  - Washington Labor and Industries (L&I)
  - Washington Fusion Center;
  - University of Washington;
  - WSU, School of Veterinary Medicine;
  - Washington State Patrol (WSP);
  - Washington Department of Transportation (WSDOT);
  - Affected local Emergency Management departments;
  - Affected local health jurisdiction (LHJ); and
  - Affected local law enforcement agencies.
- Establish quarantine areas and issue quarantine orders for animals as determined by the unified command.
- Determine appropriate movement restrictions for domestic fowl, people, equipment, feeds, commodities, and conveyances in consultation with the appropriate agencies.
- Establish entry control points and operation procedures for each affected site.
- Coordinate information regarding any suspicious activity through the Washington Fusion Center and the Office of the Inspector General.
- Establish disinfection stations as determined by the Unified Command.
- Utilize state and federal veterinarians, members of the Washington RVC, livestock inspectors, and animal health technicians and assign each appropriate response activities.
- Coordinate with USDA, DOH, and Washington State Department of Labor and Industries (L&I) to establish personal protective equipment requirements for people working in contaminated sites.
- Coordinate any movement restrictions with the affected LHJ.
- Establish a Joint Information Center (JIC) as needed.
- Prepare and coordinate information with the MAC-G for dissemination to the public, producers, processors, and other concerned groups through the JIC.
- Locate staging areas or an incident command post (ICP) outside of the quarantined area to support response personnel.
- Conduct avian influenza disease assessments.
- Identify contaminated feed, livestock, and agricultural products that must be decontaminated, destroyed or properly disposed of.

- Coordinate with the Washington Department of Ecology (ECY) to identify and approve disposal sites for animal carcasses and other contaminated material.
- Establish personnel and equipment decontamination/disinfection procedures for existing contamination sites.
- Coordinate with local law enforcement and the WSP for site security if needed.
- Maintain routine surveillance of affected areas to rapidly identify and address disease-related problems.
- Maximize surveillance of adjacent areas that could be impacted by the disease outbreak.
- Coordinate with WDOH to ensure that potentially exposed persons are notified to WDOH (and WDOH will in turn notify to the applicable LHJ or other state) so that human health monitoring and follow up can occur.

WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

ACTIONS BEFORE HPAI IS DIAGNOSED IN NORTH AMERICA

- Conduct surveillance with USDA Wildlife Services for HPAI in live-trapped and hunter-killed migratory waterfowl.
- Investigate, collect, and submit dead and sick wild birds determined to have suspicious signs or presenting clinical signs of HPAI as part of WDFW's standard procedure in monitoring wildlife health.
- Provide public media messages specific to HPAI in wild birds to constituents of Washington's wildlife resource.

ACTIONS IF HPAI IS DIAGNOSED IN WILD BIRDS NORTH AMERICA

- Coordinate with state and federal agencies and other regulatory agencies in the event HPAI is identified in wild birds, domestic birds or humans to provide personnel resources and expertise in wildlife population and disease management in Washington.
- Prepare and coordinate information for dissemination to the public, producers, processors, and other concerned groups through the JIC.
- Coordinate with the following additional agencies as needed for assistance in controlling the outbreak:
    - Washington Military Department, Emergency Management Division (EMD)
    - Washington State Reserve Veterinary Corps (RVC)
    - Washington State One Health Group
    - University of Washington
    - WSU, School of Veterinary Medicine
    - Washington State Patrol (WSP)
    - Washington Fusion Center
    - Washington Department of Transportation (WSDOT)

  - Affected local emergency management departments
  - Affected local health jurisdiction (LHJ)
  - Affected local law enforcement agencies
- Consult with WSDA to establish quarantine areas and issue quarantine orders.
- Coordinate with ECY and WSDA to identify and approve disposal sites for animal carcasses and other contaminated material.
- Establish personnel and equipment decontamination/disinfection procedures for existing contamination sites.
- Maintain routine surveillance of affected areas to rapidly identify and address disease-related problems.
- Maximize surveillance of adjacent areas that could be impacted by the disease outbreak.

WASHINGTON ANIMAL DISEASE DIAGNOSTIC LAB

ACTIONS BEFORE HPAI IS DIAGNOSED IN NORTH AMERICA

- Process samples from domestic flocks, game bird flocks, and wild bird populations for HPAI and LPAI subtypes H5 and H7.

ACTIONS IF HPAI IS DIAGNOSED IN WILD BIRDS IN NORTH AMERICA

- Receive and perform real-time reverse transcriptase-polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) testing on surveillance and diagnostic samples from public agencies and private submitters.
- Maintain lines of communication with submitters to ensure that proper samples and shipping conditions are observed.
- Maintain adequate testing staff to allow appropriate turn-around time on testing:
  - Routine surveillance samples will be tested within 48 hours of receipt by WADDL.
  - Cases of suspicious deaths will be tested within 24 hours of receipt.
- Report results of RT-PCR tests and forward specimens to appropriate agencies as specified by the USDA procedure for AI virus testing. Results will be reported to agencies as soon as completed in the lab:
  - Negative results will be reported to the submitters as soon as confirmed.
  - Positive test results are considered presumptive and will be reported to the WSDA and the USDA Assistant Director.
- All presumptive positive specimens will be forwarded to the National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL) for confirmatory testing.
- Confirmed positive results will be reported by NVSL officials to the State Veterinarian, USDA-Assistant Director, and WADDL. The State Veterinarian will report to the submitter.
- Prepare for the possibility of HPAI in domestic birds once HPAI has been diagnosed in wild birds in Washington:

- Place additional orders for lab supplies to cover a surge.
- Initiate and/or communicate results to MAC-G and/or appropriate agencies.
- Create a weekend duty roster schedule.
- Arrange for weekend delivery of specimens.

ACTIONS IF HPAI IS DIAGNOSED IN DOMESTIC BIRDS IN WASHINGTON

- Conduct all activities listed for wild bird diagnosis.
- Order additional lab supplies, as needed.
- Implement weekend duty schedules, as needed.
- Transfer WSU staff from other departments to help receive and sort specimens as necessary.

WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

ACTIONS BEFORE HPAI IS DIAGNOSED IN NORTH AMERICA

- Participate in MAC-G update meetings and conference calls.
- Facilitate surveillance activities by referring reports of sick or dead birds to appropriate partner agencies.
- Coordinate with the CDC to provide recommendations for responder personal protection for all individuals conducting response activities.
- Develop and distribute recommendations for the use of antiviral medications to persons exposed to infected wild or domestic birds.
- Assist partner agencies in the development of protocols and procedures for employee health monitoring as related to avian influenza exposure, if needed.
- Exercise avian influenza response plans with partner agencies.
- Develop and share risk communication tools and strategies with partner agencies (see Attachment A).

ACTIONS IF HPAI IS DIAGNOSED IN WILD BIRDS IN NORTH AMERICA

- Participate in MAC-G update meetings and conference calls.
- Assist LHJ's on receiving, storing, and distributing antiviral medications, if requested. Engage technical experts from the Strategic National Stockpile if applicable.
- Consult with the CDC regarding current virus strain information and provide up-to-date information to partner agencies.
- Consult with wildlife agencies on human health risks associated with wild bird contact.
- Coordinate with CDC to provide recommendations for responder personal protection for all individuals conducting response activities near affected flocks.
- Provide pertinent information and risk communication messages to the JIC.

ACTIONS IF HPAI IS DIAGNOSED IN DOMESTIC BIRDS IN WASHINGTON

- Participate in MAC-G update meetings and conference calls.
- Consult with the CDC regarding current virus strain information and provide up-to-date information to partner agencies. CDC recommends the same human health monitoring for LPAI and HPAI. Health monitoring will still occur for LPAI outbreak.
- If requested, coordinate with the local health jurisdictions on receiving, storing, and distributing antiviral medications. Engage technical experts from the Strategic National Stockpile if requested.
- Coordinate with CDC L&I to provide recommendations for responder personal protection for all individuals conducting response activities near affected poultry flocks.
- Provide pertinent information and risk communication messages to the JIC.
- Develop and distribute guidance to LHJs, healthcare providers in the affected regions, the public, and potentially exposed persons regarding human health follow up by public health, and actions to take if an exposed person becomes symptomatic. Distribute these materials in conjunction with WSDA and other partners.
- Utilizing CDC guidance, develop and distribute recommendations for the use of antiviral medications to persons exposed to infected wild or domestic birds.
- Work with USDA, CDC, WSDA and other involved to determine who may have been exposed to the infected birds. Note that per USDA/CDC agreement, USDA will notify federal responders to CDC, and CDC will notify these to the state for human health follow up. WSDA and other involved entities will have to notify to WDOH all non-federal responders, including contract staff, state staff, farm staff and others.
- Facilitate local health jurisdiction monitoring of exposed people for signs of possible influenza infection (as defined by CDC criteria), and arrange for testing of symptomatic persons at the Washington State Public Health Laboratories.
- Note that per CDC guidance, persons exposed to LPAI as well as to HPAI should be monitored for signs and symptoms of influenza infection and testing if symptomatic. CDC does not distinguish LPAI and HPAI when it comes to the recommended human health monitoring.
- In the event of a detection of a human case of novel flu, coordinate with CDC on appropriate management.
- Implement enhanced surveillance for human ILI near the affected area. Syndromic surveillance (ESSENCE) could be a tool for this.
- Public health veterinarian will assist with response and planning efforts as needed.

LOCAL HEALTH JURISDICTIONS

ACTIONS BEFORE HPAI IS DIAGNOSED IN NORTH AMERICA

- Facilitate surveillance activities by referring reports of sick or dead birds to the appropriate partner agencies.
- Disseminate accurate public information and appropriate contact information.
- Attend animal health training opportunities and exercises with WSDA and USDA

ACTIONS IF HPAI IS DIAGNOSED IN WILD BIRDS IN NORTH AMERICA

- Implement local emergency plans in cooperation with the established Incident Command.
- Disseminate updated public information and appropriate contact information in coordination with the JIC.
- Provide representation at the county Emergency Operations Center if one is activated for the incident

ACTIONS IF HPAI IS DIAGNOSED IN DOMESTIC BIRDS IN WASHINGTON

- Implement local emergency plans in cooperation with the established Incident Command and the county's Emergency Management Agency.
- Disseminate updated public information and appropriate contact information in coordination with the JIC.
- Work with DOH to arrange for human health monitoring of exposed humans, and work with DOH to facilitate testing of exposed humans at the Washington State Public Health Laboratories. Work with DOH and others to distribute avian flu materials to the general public, potentially exposed people, healthcare providers in the affected area and others. Note that per CDC guidance, human health monitoring should occur for HPAI and LPAI. CDC does not make a distinction on the recommended health monitoring and follow up for people exposed to LPAI vs HPAI.
- Provide representation at the County Emergency Operations Center or incident command post (ICP) if one is established for the incident.
- Provide available resources as requested.

OTHER LOCAL JURISCITION AGENCIES (EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT, LAW ENFORCEMENT)

THE ROLE FOR LOCAL JURISDICTIONS DURING ALL HPAI RESPONSES INCLUDES:

- Facilitate surveillance activities by referring reports of sick or dead birds to the appropriate partner agencies.
- Implement local emergency plans in cooperation with the established Incident Command.
- Provide initial road closure and perimeter control for identified isolation and quarantine areas as defined unified command to control the spread of the disease.
- Provide available resources as requested.

- Develop long-term plan for traffic control to assist in responding to the disease outbreak.

USDA, VETERINARY SERVICES

ACTIONS BEFORE HPAI IS DIAGNOSED IN NORTH AMERICA

- Provide current disease status information to states and other stakeholders including trade restrictions and animal movement.
- Ensure the safe import of animals, animal products, and biologics at our land, sea and air ports.
- Partner with state animal health agencies to quickly respond to reports of potential animal diseases.
- Provide information on appropriate biosecurity measures to the private sector, state, local, and tribal governments and help develop, support, and carry out surveillance programs.
- Sponsor research on influenza viruses with pandemic potential and on vaccines that might be effective in controlling them.
- Establish AI vaccine capability and stockpile other response resources and countermeasures for use during a HPAI outbreak.
- Manage key laboratory activities to provide emergency response and surveillance capacity.
- Provide diagnostic reference services and primary testing support.
- Set standards for laboratory testing protocols, case definitions, and disease reporting.

ACTIONS IF HPAI IS DIAGNOSED IN WILD BIRDS IN NORTH AMERICA

- USDA, WSDA, WDFW, and federal wildlife agencies will coordinate in establishing a Unified Command if warranted by the wild bird findings.
- Provide support to the federal, state, and other stakeholder agencies.
- Partner with the USFWS, USDA Wildlife Services, and others to coordinate the federal government's surveillance strategy for the early detection of HPAI in wild migratory birds and other wildlife when appropriate.

ACTIONS IF HPAI IS DIAGNOSED IN DOMESTIC BIRDS IN WASHINGTON

- Participate in the MAC-G to coordinate with WSDA, WDFW, WADDL, WDOH, and other State and Federal agencies to establish a Unified Command and Incident response management structure.
- Support WSDA and other state and federal agencies in response activities to:
    - Detect, control, and contain HPAI in domestic poultry as quickly as possible.
    - Eradicate HPAI using strategies that seek to protect public health and the environment, and support the economic and trade interests of the poultry industry.
    - Facilitate continuity of business for non-infected animals and non-contaminated animal products.
    - Implement a surveillance plan to define the extent of HPAI and establish freedom from disease if possible.

    - Develop a wildlife management plan that addresses transmission of HPAI in wild birds, to the extent possible.
- Coordinate with the State Veterinarian and Veterinary Services National Preparedness and Incident Coordination staff to provide for countermeasure acquisition, including National Veterinary Stockpile resources and deployment of a National IMT, if requested.
- Provide National Veterinary Services Laboratory reference services and primary testing support.
    - Set standards for laboratory testing protocols, case definition, and disease reporting.
- Provide for indemnity and compensation for losses as allowed by regulation.
- Work within the MAC-G and the JIC to organize, integrate and coordinate information for timely, accurate and consistent messaging.
- As per CDC/USDA agreement, refer potentially exposed federal responders to CDC for human health monitoring (CDC will then refer to state public health). Note that CDC does recommend the same human health monitoring for LPAI as for HPAI.

USDA, WILDLIFE SERVICES (USDA-WS)

USDA Wildlife Services is an agency with broad legislative authority to assist local, state and federal agencies manage diseases. The National Wildlife Disease Program assists federal, tribal, and state agencies, universities, and nongovernmental organizations in addressing wildlife diseases that may impact the public, U.S. livestock and poultry, or our Nation's natural resources.

Wildlife Services works closely with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife to conduct and coordinate the multi-agency sampling strategy for the Pacific Flyway.

ACTIONS BEFORE HPAI IS DIAGNOSED IN NORTH AMERICA

- Conduct surveillance, in cooperation with WDFW, for HPAI in live-trapped and hunter-killed migratory waterfowl.
- Conduct the agency's own surveillance for HPAI in hunter-killed birds, live birds, and environmental samples.
- Establish a cooperative agreement with WDFW to help fund an early detection surveillance effort for monitoring wild birds.

ACTIONS IF HPAI IS DIAGNOSED IN WILD BIRDS IN NORTH AMERICA OR DOMESTIC BIRDS IN WASHINGTON

- Provide staff and expertise to state and federal responding agencies both in the field and in incident command positions. Wildlife Services assumes that once an outbreak is confirmed, funds will be made available through Congress to cover response activities.
- Collaborate with primary state and federal agencies that have the regulatory or management authority on domestic and wild bird issues.
- Provide vehicles if available, to accompany personnel dispatched to the outbreak event.
- Provide representation at the staging area or ICP if one is established for the incident.

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

The USFWS is the principal federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting and enhancing migratory birds, fish, wildlife, and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The Service manages the National Wildlife Refuge System, which encompasses national wildlife refuges, thousands of small wetlands and other special management areas. It also operates national fish hatcheries, fishery resources offices and ecological services field stations.

The agency enforces federal wildlife laws, administers the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and Endangered Species Act, manages migratory bird populations, restores nationally significant fisheries, conserves and restores wildlife habitat such as wetlands, and helps foreign and Native American tribal governments with their conservation efforts. It also oversees the Federal Assistance program, which distributes hundreds of millions of dollars in excise taxes on fishing and hunting equipment to state fish and wildlife agencies.

ACTIONS BEFORE HPAI IS DIAGNOSED IN NORTH AMERICA

- Conduct surveillance in cooperation with USDA Wildlife Services and WDFW, for HPAI in live-trapped and hunter-killed migratory waterfowls.
- Investigate, collect, and submit, dead and sick wild birds determined to have suspicious signs or presenting clinical signs of HPAI as part of our standard procedure in monitoring wildlife health on National Wildlife Refuges.
- Provide public media messages specific to HPAI in wild birds to constituents of Washington's wildlife resource in conjunction with the JIC.

ACTIONS IF HPAI IS DIAGNOSED IN WILD BIRDS IN NORTH AMERICA

- Coordinate with federal and state agencies to provide personnel, resources and expertise in wildlife population and disease management in Washington.
- Appoint a representative to the MAC-G to review surveillance guidelines when HPAI is discovered in the Pacific Flyway.
- Provide representation at the staging area or ICP if one is established for the incident.
- Coordinate with ECY, WDFW and WSDA to identify and approve disposal methods and sites for wild bird carcasses and other contaminated material infected with HPAI.
- Manage USFWS lands (refuges or hatcheries) that fall within containment zones in ways that protect human health, contain the disease, and maintain biosecurity.

USGS NATIONAL WILDLIFE HEALTH CENTER

The USGS National Wildlife Health Center (NWHC) is the lead agency within the Department of Interior under the Federal Emergency Support Function #11. NWHC will provide technical assistance to determine the extent of the threat to the wildlife and develop recommendations to mitigate such threats.

THE ROLE FOR NWHC DURING ALL HPAI RESPONSES INCLUDES:

- Assist with surveillance activities, field investigations, and other actions associated with wildlife morbidity and mortality.

- Provide laboratory and diagnostic capabilities for wildlife cases.
- Provide information to public health agencies as it relates to wildlife health.

ACRONYM LIST

AI	Avian Influenza
APHIS	Animal Plant Health Inspection Service
CDC	United States Center for Disease Control and Prevention
CEMP	Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan
DHHS	Department of Health and Human Services
DOH	Department of Health
DOI	Department of Interior
ECY	Washington Department of Ecology
EMD	Emergency Management Division
ESF	Emergency Support Function
HPAI	Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza
ICP	Incident Command Post
ICS	Incident Command System
IMT	Incident Management Team
JIC	Joint Information Center
L&I	Labor and Industries
LPAI	Low Pathogenic Avian Influenza
MAC-G	Multi-Agency Coordination Group
NVSL	National Veterinary Services Laboratory
RVC	Reserve Veterinary Corps
SEOC	State Emergency Operations Center
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Survey
USGS	United States Geologic Survey
UW	University of Washington
WDFW	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
WHO	World Health Organization
WSDA	Washington State Department of Agriculture
WSU	Washington State University

Attachment A: Communications Plan

The following plan is to be used as a framework for a communications response to an emergency under the National Incident Management System (NIMS). NIMS integrates effective practices in emergency preparedness and response into a comprehensive national framework for incident management.

Under the Incident Command System (ICS), a Joint Information Center (JIC) will be established as a central location for all public information dissemination, public affairs functions, and crisis communications. Under most circumstances, the public information officer (PIO) from the lead response agency will act as the lead PIO for the incident and will coordinate the JIC and the Governor's Office. The JIC handles on-scene media and public inquiries, emergency public information and warnings, rumor and media monitoring, and social media.

THE ROLE OF COMMUNICATIONS STAFF AT WDFW /USFWS

In the event of a highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) detection in wild birds, WDFW will take the lead.

THE ROLE OF WSDA COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE

In the event of a highly pathogenic avian influenza detection in U.S. domestic birds, WSDA's Communications Office will coordinate with state and federal agencies on all communication activities associated with the incident. WSDA will also coordinate media relations with appropriate USDA agencies, state agencies and other government public affairs offices.

THE ROLE OF DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

In the event of the first human avian influenza case in the U.S., the WDOH will coordinate with the Center for Disease Control and Prevention and Washington county health departments on all communication activities associated with human health issues associated with avian influenza.

OVERALL COMMUNICATIONS OBJECTIVES

- Provide transparent, accurate, timely, and consistent information.
- Maintain credibility and instill public confidence in the state's ability to respond to an outbreak.
- Address public fear.
- Address rumors, inaccuracies, and misperceptions as quickly as possible.
- Alert poultry producers to the risk currently posed by an avian influenza outbreak and educate them on biosecurity measures.
- Discuss food safety.
- Spread information on where to report sick or dead birds.

TARGET AUDIENCES

During an outbreak communication with federal, state, and local government partners, news media, industry and other stakeholders, trading partners, other counterparts, and the general public is pertinent.

The target audiences include:

- General Public

- Poultry business, trade, and industry stakeholders
- Backyard poultry owners, hobbyists, falconers and exotic bird breeders
- Legislators
- Civic leaders (local, state, and national)
- Congressional leadership
- Local health jurisdictions
- Stakeholders and partners specific to the emergency
- Healthcare professionals
- News media
- Veterinarians
- Hunters
- Birdwatchers

MESSAGING FOR POSITIVE TESTS OF HPAI IN DOMESTIC BIRD(S)

COMMUNICATION OBJECTIVES

- Alert public to actions government officials are taking.
- Discuss zoonotic risk.
    - Note that while risk to the public is low, people exposed to infected birds may be contacted by public health.
- Describe food safety risk and procedures.
- Discuss the risk for disease spread and ways to reduce risk.
- Alert poultry producers to the risk posed by the HPAI outbreak.
- Promote biosecurity measures among poultry owners.
- Highlight importance of poultry owners reporting sick or dead birds.
- Solicit volunteer testing of domestic poultry and waterfowl if needed.

KEY MESSAGES

- Poultry owners should increase biosecurity to protect their birds.
- Status of human infections
- Officials are responding quickly and decisively to eradicate the virus.
- Birds are depopulated as quickly as possible.
- Increased monitoring in the region will ensure quick detection of any more outbreaks.
- Properly cooked poultry and eggs are safe to eat.
    - USDA inspects poultry products for public consumption.
    - Retail stores sell only USDA inspected poultry.

INDUSTRY MESSAGES (PRODUCERS)

- Protect your flocks and be vigilant in reporting signs of illness.
- Enhance biosecurity practices to prevent spread of the virus.
- Limit contact between your birds and wild birds.
- Know the signs of avian flu.
- Report sick birds to WSDA.

TACTICS

INTERGOVERNMENTAL/STAKEHOLDER OUTREACH:

- Conference call with state/federal partner agencies, including communications staff.
- Individual notification to Governor, key legislators, other key elected officials and tribal councils.
- Notification to Congressional representatives.
- Intergovernmental conference call with local/state agencies.
- Stakeholder conference call with poultry industry groups and other identified stakeholders.

MEDIA OUTREACH:

- Issue news release.
- Distribute Q & A, fact sheets and other resources to post on website and share via social media.
- Organize press conference with relevant officials to discuss animal and human health implications, actions being taken, guidance for the public.
- Plan media availability in affected area to demonstrate work being done, provide interviews and video to reporters.
- Establish media briefing updates to ensure predictable, established lines of communication with reporters.
- Monitor media 24/7 to promptly correct misinformation.

MESSAGING FOR POSITIVE TESTS OF HPAI IN WILD BIRDS

COMMUNICATION OBJECTIVES

- Communicate actions the government is taking.
- Inform the public that avian influenza naturally resides in wild birds.
- Inform the public that routine hygiene precautions should be taken whenever interacting with wild birds and will provide protection from the disease.
- Prepare the public for the possibility of more bird/animal cases.
- Prepare the public for the possibility of human illness from direct contact with infected birds.

KEY ISSUES

- Continued monitoring for disease in wild birds.
- Avian influenza naturally occurs in wild bird populations.
- Common-sense hygiene and safety precautions.
- Safety of commercial poultry.
- Safety of properly prepared game birds.

PUBLIC MESSAGES

- Discuss zoonotic risk.
- The overwhelming majority of human illnesses in other countries have resulted from direct contact with infected birds, usually domestic poultry and not wild birds.
- Rare human-to-human cases of HPAI transmission have occurred.

- Avian influenzas are natural and endemic in wild bird populations.
- Federal and state agencies including WDFW, USFWS, WSDA, USDA, and WDOH are working closely together to protect human health, the poultry industry, and wild birds against the disease by keeping them out of infected poultry facilities.
- We have increased monitoring in the region and areas where infected birds are likely to travel to ensure quick detection if there are additional outbreaks.
- Continue to message that culling wild birds will not stop the outbreak and migratory birds are protected.
- Experts currently believe that limiting opportunities for domestic poultry to come in contact with wild birds is a more effective disease management strategy than closing waterfowl seasons or otherwise restricting human contact with birds.
- Should circumstances change, we are prepared to work with our state and federal counterparts and take prompt and appropriate measures–including hunting restrictions and closing wild bird areas to public access–if they are determined necessary and effective in protecting the health and safety of people and wild birds.
    - Precautions that should always be taken when interacting with wild birds such as:
        - Avoid touching wild birds or their fecal material or any body fluids.
        - Use disposable or washable gloves when handling any equipment that comes in contact with wild birds. Wash hands thoroughly afterwards.
    - Consuming both wild and domestic poultry is safe if cooked properly.

Stakeholder Messages (Hunters)

The following routine safety precautions, which hunters should take whenever handling game, will also provide protection from the virus.

- Wear rubber or disposable gloves while handling and cleaning game birds.
- Do not eat, drink, smoke or touch your face with the gloves while you are handling or cleaning game birds.
- Keep the game bird and its fluids away from other foods.
- Thoroughly clean knives and all other equipment and surfaces that come in contact with the bird. After cleaning, use a solution of 3 tablespoons chlorine bleach in 1 quart of water (10% solution) to disinfect all contaminated surfaces.
- Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds after handling bird, or with alcohol-based waterless hand cleaner if hands are not visibly soiled.
- Cook all game meat thoroughly (up to at least 165°F) to kill disease organisms and parasites. Use a food thermometer to ensure the inside of the bird has reached at least 165°F
- Report sick birds or dead birds to WFDW
- WDFW and other agencies have veterinarians and a network of state wildlife biologists who can investigate a report of sick birds.

Stakeholder Messages (Birdwatchers)

As a general rule, people should observe wildlife and other wild birds from a distance to minimize possible exposure to any disease and disturbance to the animal. Also use the following common-sense safety precautions:

- Avoid touching wild birds and their fecal material. If there is contact with wild birds, do not rub eyes, eat, drink or smoke before washing hands with soap and water.
- Use disposable or washable gloves when handling or cleaning backyard feeders, bird baths, or other equipment. Wash hands thoroughly after handling.

STAKEHOLDER MESSAGES (POULTRY PRODUCERS)

- Protect your flocks and be vigilant in reporting signs of illness.
- Enhance biosecurity practices to prevent spread of the virus.
    - Permit only essential workers and vehicles to enter the farm to limit the chances of bringing the virus from an outside source.
    - Avoid visiting other poultry farms.
    - Disinfect shoes, clothes, hands, egg trays or flats, crates, vehicles and tires – all of which can carry the virus.
    - Protect your flocks from contact with wild birds.
- Know the signs of avian flu in domestic birds.
    - Signs include respiratory problems, such as coughing and sneezing, watery diarrhea, swelling around the head, neck, and eyes, loss of appetite.
- Report sick birds by calling 1-800-606-3056.
    - WSDA will investigate any report of sick birds.

TACTICS

INTERGOVERNMENTAL/STAKEHOLDER OUTREACH:

- Inform joint communication team members (WDFW, USFWS, WSDA, EMD, WDOH, and USDA-APHIS).
- If the infected wild bird is found in Washington, contact local government (county supervisors, city government if applicable) plus state and national representatives of region affected.
- Alert Washington sportsmen/conservation groups and bird-watching groups including Washington Hunter Association, Vancouver office of Ducks Unlimited, Wetland Joint Venture Coordinators.
- State legislative conference call or personal visits.
- Communicate with poultry industry groups and other identified stakeholders.

MEDIA OUTREACH:

If detection is made in Washington domestic flocks:

- When USDA NVSL confirms HPAI in Washington, the joint communications team will issue a news release.
- If needed, establish a media briefing schedule to ensure predictable, established lines of communication with reporters to provide updates on management of the outbreak
- Distribute Q & A and fact sheet and post on joint communications team's website.
- Monitor media 24/7 to promptly correct misinformation.

If detection is made in North America, but not in Washington:

- USDA will assume a lead role, but joint communication team and/or appropriate partner agencies will be ready to respond to media inquiries, including distribution of informational materials.
- Joint communication team may consider a media availability with relevant officials to discuss potential impact on Washington.

GENERAL PUBLIC OUTREACH:

- Reassure the public that a detection in birds does not signal a human pandemic.
- Distribute information to hunters and other visitors to wild bird areas of regions affected.
- Post signage at wild bird areas or refuges in regions affected.

Attachment B: Surveillance and Response Plans

- Emergency Support Function 11, Appendix B, State Animal Response Plan.
  - Available at: *http://mil.wa.gov/other-links/plans*
- USDA Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Response Plan, *The Red Book*.
  - Available at: *https://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/emergency_management/downloads/hpai_response_plan.pdf*
- Implementation Plan for Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) Surveillance in Waterfowl in the United States
  - Available at: *https://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/downloads/animal_diseases/ai/wild-bird-strategic-plan.pdf*
- Washington Military Department, Emergency Management Division. Washington State Comprehensive Emergency Plan.
  - Available at: *http://mil.wa.gov/other-links/plans*
- Washington Department of Agriculture (WSDA). Emergency Poultry Disease Response Plan.
  - Available by contacting WSDA Animal Services Division: 360-902-1878
- Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW). 2007 Surveillance for early detection of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI H5N1) in wild birds.
  - Available at: *http://wdfw.wa.gov/conservation/health/avian_flu/*
- Washington Department of Health Pandemic Influenza Response Plan, Appendix 3 to the ESF #8 Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan.
  - Available at: *http://mil.wa.gov/other-links/plans*
- Washington Department of Health Communicable Disease and Pandemic Response Concept of Operations
- USDA HPAI Response and Policy Information
  - Available at: *https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/emergency-management/fadprep-hpai*
- USDA 2015 Surveillance Plan for Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in Waterfowl in the United States
  - Available at: *https://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/downloads/animal_diseases/ai/2015-hpai-surveillance-plan.pdf*