

## Appendix 16

### Public Health advice for those working/living on premises under investigation for avian influenza

#### Draft 2

People can get infected with bird flu from sick birds, their droppings, or other fluids or secretions (e.g. blood, guts etc). Cages, equipment or places where infected birds have been kept can be a source of infection for several days. If your farm/premises is under investigation remember the following:

- Only people authorised by the Department of Agriculture are allowed have close contact with potentially infected poultry or droppings. Please make sure this is enforced.
- **Elderly people, children and people with chronic conditions or problems with their immunity**, as well as those with flu like symptoms must stay away from potentially infected poultry or droppings.
- If the Department of Agriculture deems it necessary for you to come into close contact with potentially infected poultry, reduce the amount of time that you spend with poultry or droppings. **Close contact means direct handling, or sharing the same confined airspace as the birds or their manure.**
- Make sure that you use the protective clothing and masks that the Department of Agriculture require you to wear when coming into contact with poultry or their droppings.
- After close contact with sick or dead birds or their droppings, take off the clothes you were wearing hat, goggles and mask last -and clean them as directed by the Department of Agriculture.
- Wash your hands well with soap and water for about 20 seconds immediately after any contact with live poultry, birds or their droppings. Make sure that your children always wash their hands before eating. Don't touch your eyes, nose or mouth with your hands before you have washed your hands. Washing your hands regularly is one of the most important ways to protect yourself against bird flu.
- Farmers, families, catching crews, employees and visitors should restrict their movements between the farm/premises under investigation and non-infected farms, as directed by the Department of Agriculture.
- Poultry flock owners should get the regular flu vaccine each year. If you haven't yet been vaccinated, and it's the flu season (September to May)

please contact your GP. Remember, this doesn't prevent bird flu, but can cut the risk of a person becoming sick with bird flu and human flu at the same time.

- Don't eat any sick or dead birds even if they are cooked. Don't feed them to other animals or birds
- Watch for flu like symptoms (cough, runny nose, sore throat, temperature or aches and pains) or diarrhoea. If you have any of these symptoms contact a doctor immediately and tell them what has happened.

The investigation will quickly find out if your farm/premises is infected with avian influenza. If the infection is confirmed, public health doctors will visit you and will advise you on any extra precautions you may need to take

(This leaflet to be used in conjunction with the general bird flu leaflet)