



Bird flu

Public health advice on bird flu
(avian influenza) for poultry flock
owners and poultry workers

Avoid the risk of infection

- **Wash hands** (and arms if necessary) before eating, drinking, smoking, using the telephone, taking medication, applying make-up, inserting contact lenses
- **Cover all new and existing cuts and grazes** with waterproof dressings and/or gloves before starting work with poultry. If cuts and grazes occur, wash immediately with soap and running water and apply a waterproof dressing
- **Avoid touching your eyes nose and mouth** with your hands e.g. don't put pens or pencils in your mouth or wipe your eyes with your hand
- **Follow the bio security advice in the leaflet from the Department of Agriculture and Food**

Get flu vaccine every year

Get vaccinated against human flu.

The vaccine prevents infection with human flu and can cut the risk of a person becoming sick with human flu and bird flu at the same time. This can prevent the two types of flu mixing and becoming more easily spread from person-to-person.

The vaccine is offered free to poultry flock owners and poultry workers. Your GP can arrange this for you. **It does not protect against bird flu.**

If you suspect disease in your poultry

- Ask your vet for advice immediately
- Keep contact with the poultry to a minimum until the vet has assessed the situation
- Don't let anyone come into contact with the potentially infected poultry, i.e. keep people away
- Do not move poultry or poultry products e.g. feathers, eggs etc or manure/litter from the premises

For further information visit www.hpsc.ie



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

