

## **MOVING BIRDS NOT TO SLAUGHTER FROM TEST-NEGATIVE FLOCKS IN THE CONTROLLED ZONE**

Note: Poultry houses should not be repopulated until they are released from quarantine. By law, birds brought into a poultry house under quarantine are not eligible for indemnity.

The option of leaving dead birds at the end of the farm lane for swabbing by authorized personnel may be offered as an alternative to in-house collection and submission of swabs.

- Do not move birds showing signs of respiratory problems, or birds from flocks with significantly increased mortality, from the farm. Have any flocks with birds showing signs of respiratory problems examined by the State Veterinarian or a designee. Birds shall not be moved from an infected or exposed flock until at least 21 days after the acute phase of the infection has concluded, as determined by the RI DEM Division of Agriculture.
- Within the Controlled Zone all flocks must be virus detection-tested (PCR or virus isolation). The date of sample collection must be within 7 days prior to potential movement. If they are NOT headed for slaughter,
  - Collect tracheal/oropharyngeal swabs for virus detection testing from thirty (30) birds representative of the flock\*. Take swab samples from any dead or sick birds first, and then swab other birds to collect 30 swabs.\*\*
  - If there are fewer than 30 birds in the flock, collect samples from all birds.
- Refer to the guidelines for collection and submission of samples included in this document.
- Poultry within the Controlled Zone cannot be moved without written permission of the State Veterinarian, and no request for a permit will be considered without a copy of negative virus detection test results (samples collected within 7 days prior to movement).

### **GUIDELINES FOR COLLECTION AND SUBMISSION OF SAMPLES**

Please Note: In collecting and submitting samples, identify the Premises precisely. All submission forms should include a Premises ID Number. If you do not know the number, request one from the RI DEM Division of Agriculture (DAG at 401-222-2781). If a Premises ID number is unavailable, on all submission forms record the street address where the samples were taken. (Note: That address may differ from the grower's mailing address.)

## COLLECTION OF SAMPLES

### BLOOD

- Collect at least 0.50 ml of blood in tubes available from the DAG or its designated laboratory (i.e., microfuge tubes must be at least one-third full).
- Allow blood to stand for 4 to 12 hours at room temperature.
- Place blood in refrigerator until it can be transported to the laboratory.
- Complete the submission form and send it with the samples.
- Write the farm name and Premises ID on the side of the box of samples (not on the lid).
- Submit a completed submission form which includes Premises ID.

### SWABS

#### Tracheal/oropharyngeal swabs:

- Collect tracheal/oropharyngeal swabs for virus detection testing from birds representative of the flock. Take swab samples from any dead or sick birds first, and then swab other birds to collect the required number of swabs.
- Use dry swabs for dead bird sample collection; use dry swabs or swabs moistened with VTM for live bird sample collection.
- Insert the swab and rub the mucosa vigorously.
- Use 1 swab for each bird.
- Place swabs into tubes containing enough VTM to moisten and cover the swabs.
- Place 11 swabs (from 11 different birds) into one tube.
- Submit tubes to a DAG-designated laboratory.
- Write the farm name and Premises ID on the side of the box of samples (not on the lid).
- Submit a completed submission form which includes Premises ID.

#### Cloacal swabs:\*\*

- Collect cloacal swabs for virus detection testing from birds representative of the flock. Take swab samples from any dead or sick birds first, and then swab other birds to collect the required number of swabs.
- Use dry swabs for dead bird sample collection; use dry swabs or swabs moistened with VTM for live bird sample collection.
- Insert the swab and rub the mucosa vigorously.
- Use 1 swab for each bird.
- Place swabs into tubes containing enough VTM to moisten and cover the swabs.
- Place 11 swabs (from 11 different birds) into one tube.
- Submit tubes to a DAG-designated laboratory.
- Write the farm name and Premises ID on the side of the box of samples (not on the lid).
- Submit a completed submission form which includes a Premises ID.

\* All samples must be taken by government authorized personnel (DAG, USDA, or their designated laboratory personnel)

\*\*Waterfowl: Cloacal swabs required

## SUBMISSION OF SAMPLES TO A LABORATORY

- Samples can be tested only at a USDA- or DAG-designated laboratory, normally the Connecticut Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory (CVMDL) at the University of Connecticut. In accordance with USDA / APHIS NVS protocols, confirmatory testing/subtyping will normally be done at the National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL) in Ames, Iowa
- Call the laboratory in advance to let them know when the samples will arrive:  
Connecticut Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory  
University of Connecticut , 61 N. Eagleville Rd., Storrs, CT 06269  
Phone 860-486-0837; Fax 860-486-3738
- When leaving dead birds at the end of the farm lane for swabbing, place birds in a sturdy, leak-proof container. Authorized personnel will normally collect swab samples and leave the dead birds at that site for disposal.
- To ensure the integrity of swab samples:
  - VTM should be an orange color when fresh. Check that the VTM has not changed to a violet color and has not passed the date of expiration.
  - VTM should be refrigerated at all times.
  - Keep the swabs in VTM on fresh ice packs until transporting to a DAG-designated laboratory (you may need to change ice packs at least every 24 hours).
  - If samples are stored in a freezer for more than 72 hours, place a plastic bag around each box and seal to prevent drying of the VTM.
  - Write the farm name and Premises ID on the side of the box of samples (not on the lid).
  - Submit a completed submission form which includes a Premises ID.

The RI DEM Division of Agriculture reserves the right to amend the above mentioned requirements for Avian Influenza with the goal of any changes still being to prevent, contain and eliminate the disease. Changes to the general guidelines of the protocol may result from information including, but not limited to, virus strain, pathogenicity, morbidity and mortality, movement of birds and products, and additional epidemiological information obtained as a result of avian influenza investigations.