

Poultry Gatherings Contingency Plan

This ten-step plan identifies the practical steps that must be taken by organisers if there is suspicion, or confirmation of a notifiable avian disease at, or near a poultry gathering which they are organising.

The plan below complements the conditions of the general license to arrange a poultry gathering including (but not limited to), the appointment of a poultry expert, or welfare officer to examine all birds, carriers and participants before permitting entry; disinfectant footbaths or over-boots; ensuring a local veterinary surgeon is available to attend at short notice; the organisers have provided at least seven days' notice to APHA regarding the gathering, and all other conditions of the licence have been met. (Venue & equipment hirers should be made aware of 8-10 in advance)

1. The individual responsible for animal welfare at the gathering confirms to organisers the bird(s) with symptoms akin to avian influenza, or other notifiable disease – entry/pen numbers and time of identification should be noted
2. Bird(s) displaying symptoms must be isolated immediately to the designated quarantine area (as per the licence conditions) and the owner informed
3. If the symptoms were identified during a pre-entry inspection, Isolation should be within the vehicle of transportation
4. Animal Plant Health Association (APHA) must be notified immediately by calling: 0300 0200 301 and a veterinary inspector requested for immediate attendance
5. Local veterinary surgeon notified and attendance requested (on advice from APHA)
6. No further carriers, birds or participants are permitted to enter/leave the premises and immediate area (inc car parks) until authorised by an APHA veterinary inspector
7. Other entries, particularly those from the same origin as those suspected of infection should be examined visually for signs of the disease and isolated as appropriate
8. Once APHA veterinary inspector is on site – that person becomes responsible for the biosecurity – organisers and participants become legally-bound by their instructions
9. Non-infected birds will be held in the general (non-quarantine area); with food and water provided by the organisers whilst the inspection and/or clean-up takes place
10. Waste material must be confined, disinfected and stored for safe disposal in accordance with APHA instructions after the inspection.

The above plan is designed as a generic guide and can be adapted by poultry gatherings organisers for their premises – specifying areas of quarantine, footbath use and/or housing for birds during any prolonged inspection or cleansing operation that may occur following a suspected notifiable avian disease outbreak.