

# AVIAN INFLUENZA

## PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE) GUIDELINES

### for Dairy Workers



*Information provided is intended as general guidelines for exposures.*

## AVIAN INFLUENZA IN DAIRY CATTLE

Avian Influenza (AI) is spread through contact with infected animals, specifically:

- Feces
- Saliva
- Nasal discharges
- Unpasteurized milk

It is likely that it is spread in more ways that we do not yet know.

The virus can be spread by animals, animal products, vehicles and equipment, people, and birds. Preventing the spread of the virus is key to maintaining healthy animals, milk production, and the health and safety of workers.

## WHAT IS THE IMPACT ON BIOSECURITY?

Dairy farms are facing significant milk losses from cows impacted by AI. People who come in contact with infected cows are also at risk of infection. Enhanced biosecurity measures will help protect animal and human health. **One key piece to this is personal sanitation and personal protective equipment (PPE) for dairy workers with medium and high exposure to the virus.**

Anyone who works with or around cattle, even if not in close contact, should wash hands regularly, especially:


- Before eating, smoking, and touching your face
- Before leaving work (including breaks)
- Before and after wearing PPE
- After going to the bathroom

Workers should also wear dairy-dedicated clothing, footwear, and personal items, or put on clean protective gear over their clothing/footwear. Leave any soiled clothing on the dairy to be laundered, or place them in a trash bag or tote that can be closed and stored until they can be laundered off-site. Leave soiled footwear on the dairy or disinfect them before leaving.



**Learn more about Avian Influenza**

USDA: Avian Influenza Website

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## RECOMMENDED PPE FOR HIGH EXPOSURE AREAS

Anyone working around animals that are have suspected or confirmed AI should wear high exposure PPE when in direct or close contact (within about 6 feet) with:

- Sick or dead animals (for example, work in sick pens)
- Animal feces or litter
- Viscera from a farm with confirmed or potentially infected animals (for example, some slaughterhouse work)
- Udders or raw milk (for example, work in the milking parlor, raw milk processing)

### Head protection

Disposable head cover or hair cover

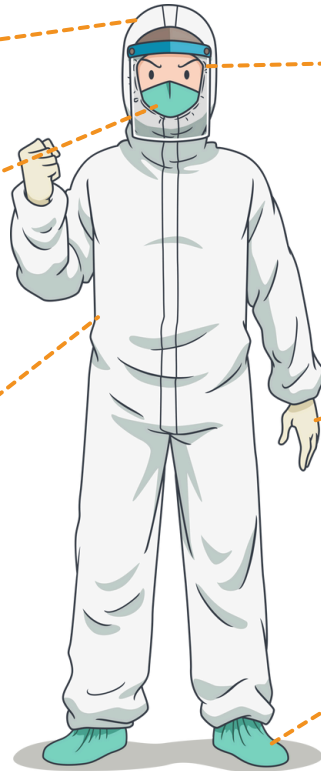
### Respiratory protection

Minimum respiratory protection is a NIOSH-approved N95 disposable particulate respirator

### Protective clothing

Fluid resistant disposable coveralls or coveralls that can be disinfected\*

Optional: Waterproof apron over top of coveralls



### Eye protection

Properly fitted unvented or indirectly vented safety goggles  
Optional: A face shield that can be disinfected will protect the face from splashing

**Gloves:** disposable nitrile or neoprene gloves that can be disinfected

Optional: Outer work gloves to protect the disposable gloves

### Foot protection

Disposable coverings or boots that can be disinfected

*Cleaning and disinfecting involves exposure to chemicals.  
Check the product label or SDS sheet for PPE recommendations.*

\*In milking parlors where contamination from cows can reach the worker from only one side, the fluid resistant coveralls may be substituted with a fluid resistant sleeved apron. This modification should NOT be used in parlors where cows line up on two or more sides or are crowded, due to the risk of splashing.

## RECOMMENDED PPE FOR MEDIUM EXPOSURE AREAS

Anyone working around healthy animals should wear medium exposure PPE when in direct or close contact (within about 6 feet) with:

- Healthy, non-lactating animals on a dairy farm that has animals with confirmed/suspected AI
- Animals on farms in a region where there are animals with confirmed/suspected AI

### MEDIUM EXPOSURE PPE INCLUDES:

- **Respiratory protection:** Minimum respiratory protection is a NIOSH-approved N95 disposable particulate respirator
- **Eye protection:** Properly fitted unvented or indirectly vented safety goggles
- **Gloves:** disposable nitrile or neoprene gloves that can be disinfected
  - Optional: Outer work gloves to protect the disposable gloves