

# AVIAN INFLUENZA

## PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE) GUIDELINES for Poultry Workers



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

### AVIAN INFLUENZA IN POULTRY

Avian Influenza is a disease caused by a group of viruses that are very effective at spreading among birds. It is spread through contact with infected birds, specifically:

- Fecal droppings
- Saliva
- Nasal discharges

The risk to the general public's health from bird flu viruses is low. However, people that have job-related or recreational exposures to birds are at higher risk of infection. Anyone exposed to infected birds should wear personal protective equipment (PPE).

**Sick birds or unusual bird deaths should be reported to State/Federal officials either through the state veterinarian or through USDA's toll-free number at 1-866-536-7593.**

Working in affected poultry facilities involves exposures to dust, toxic gases, and disinfecting chemicals, in addition to the avian influenza virus. It is important to select respiratory protection for all of these exposures.



**Effective ventilation and use of respirators with multi-gas cartridges and P100 filters are recommended when any of these gases and dusts may be present. A particulate filtering respirator with only an N95 or P100 filter or cartridge is effective for dust and viruses, but it does not protect against hazardous gases.**




**Use cleaning and disinfecting products only as directed. Some cleaning or disinfecting compounds may react with ammonia in litter to produce hazardous gases. Mixing cleaning or disinfecting products together can produce toxic gases. Consult the product label or manufacturer for additional information.**



**Learn more about  
Avian Influenza**

USDA: Avian  
Influenza Website

402-552-3394  
[go.unmc.edu/cs-cash/cs-cash-contact](http://go.unmc.edu/cs-cash/cs-cash-contact)  
 [go.unmc.edu/cs-cash](http://go.unmc.edu/cs-cash)

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# RECOMMENDED PPE WHEN MONITORING BIRD HEALTH

## Head protection

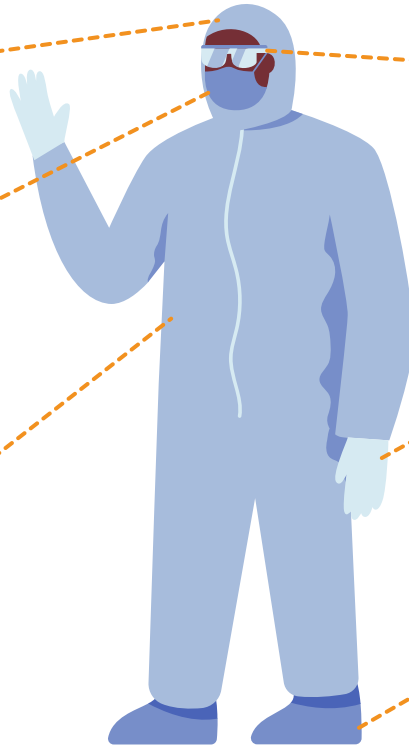
Disposable head cover or hair cover

## 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



## Eye protection

Properly fitted unvented or indirectly vented safety goggles

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

## Foot protection

Disposable coverings or boots that can be disinfected

## PPE FOR DEPOPULATION, REMOVAL, & COMPOSTING

These tasks may involve exposure to ammonia. Additional respiratory and eye protection is needed. Wear the same as above, plus...

- **Respirator:** half mask or full facepiece respirator with P100 filters and ammonia or multi gas cartridges
- **Eye Protection:** unvented goggles or full facepiece respirator

## PPE FOR CLEANING & DISINFECTING

These tasks involve exposure to chemicals. Wear the same as above, plus...

- **Respirator:** half mask or full facepiece respirator with a combination of P100 filters and multi-gas cartridges are appropriate for many disinfectants
- **Eye Protection:** unvented goggles or full facepiece respirator

**Always check the product label for recommendations.**

## RESOURCES

Use your smartphone to scan the QR code, or click on the links.



NIOSH:  
Fit  
Testing



Ag Health  
& Safety  
Alliance:  
Respirator  
Storage



NASD:  
Respiratory  
Health on  
the Poultry  
Farm



The  
Respiratory  
Protection  
Information  
Trusted Source