

Bird Flu Fast Facts for Employers

Bird flu is a disease that infects birds, cows, and other animals. It can also spread to people who work with animals, such as at poultry farms or dairy farms.

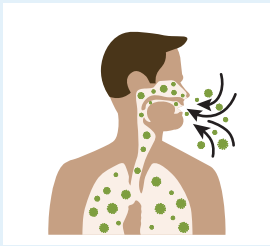
Some symptoms in humans include:

- Pink eye (conjunctivitis).
- Fever.
- Fatigue.
- Muscle aches.
- Stuffy or runny nose.

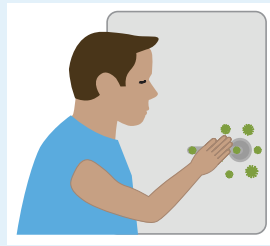


How does bird flu spread?

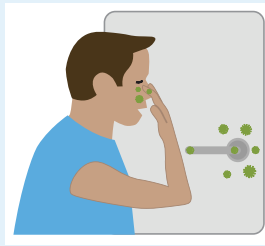
Workers can become infected when they:



Breathe in tiny particles containing the virus.



Touch a surface contaminated with the virus, then touch their eyes, nose, or mouth.

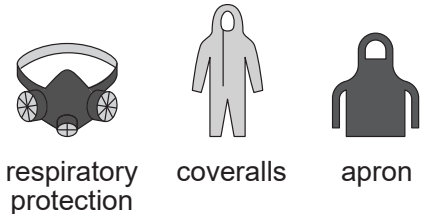


Are splashed in the face with even small amounts of liquid containing the virus.

How can workers be protected?

Employers must:

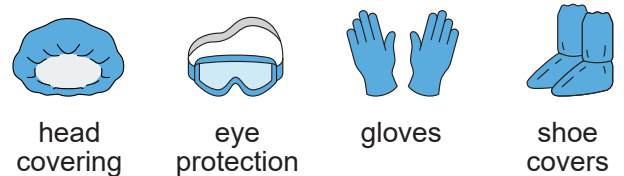
- Keep work areas clean and provide handwashing facilities.
- Use safe work practices to minimize dust.
- Provide medical check-ups for workers who work in restricted or quarantined areas, or with infected animals or their waste.
- Train workers on bird flu, its hazards, and safety procedures.
- Provide and ensure use of PPE and respirators.
- Investigate worker symptoms of bird flu to figure out how they got infected, and adjust safety procedures if needed.
- Provide more protections if the worksite is under quarantine or other order or if there are any infected animals, including establishing restricted areas and providing showers and change rooms for workers.



respiratory protection

coveralls

apron



head covering

eye protection

gloves

shoe covers

Resources

- [Protection from Avian Influenza page](#)
- [Exposure to Zoonotic Aerosol Transmissible Disease Hazards Guide](#)
- [California Department of Public Health: Current Bird Flu Situation](#)

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This document is available with active links at www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/dosh_publications
For assistance regarding this subject matter, employers may contact
Cal/OSHA Consultation Services at 1-800-963-9424 or InfoCons@dir.ca.gov
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