

# Biosecurity Information for Poultry Gatherings

## Participants

Participants must familiarise themselves with the [symptoms](#) of Avian Influenza and other notifiable diseases and should take all reasonable steps to minimise the risk of spread of such diseases through [adopting pro-active biosecurity](#) measures including, but not limited to:

- Minimise the movement of birds between enclosures, and between sites
- Ensure clean footwear before and after visits, and between sites
- Take steps to deter wild birds, particularly waterfowl
- Feed and water birds under cover and remove any spillages
- Execute an effective programme of vermin control
- Maintain good cleanliness and hygiene, regularly disinfect hard areas
- Secure poultry enclosures with appropriate fencing to deter wild birds
- Use of disinfectant mats or foot dips between buildings

### **Before entering a poultry gathering, participants must:**

- Not enter if the place of origin of the birds is within an area of the UK which is under restrictions relating to notifiable avian disease (including Prevention, Protection and Surveillance Zones)
- Not enter birds that have attended a poultry gathering in the previous 7 days
- Inspect the health of all birds at the place of origin before departure
- Not move birds if there are any signs, or suspicion of any disease
- Transport birds in clean solid-bottom and sided carriers
- Use clean bedding material at the start of the journey, on the date of departure, which must be contained within the carrier at all times.

### **On arrival to the gathering, participants must:**

- Present themselves visibly clean, free from faecal contamination, feathers, or other bedding matter with unsoiled footwear or over-boots
- Present a signed declaration<sup>1</sup>, confirming:
  - The origin of the poultry is not from within a restricted area
  - The identified birds are healthy, and
  - They will follow the instructions of the poultry gathering licence

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<sup>1</sup> Declaration forms are mandatory in England and Wales, but not required by the General Licence in Scotland. Organisers of bird gatherings in Scotland may voluntarily require participants/competitors to complete a declaration form.

- Ensure their birds remain isolated from all other birds, until each has been individually inspected by a named poultry expert
- Present each carrier (and each bird therein) for a health inspection before entering the gathering
- Be prepared to surrender any bird that fails the initial health inspection into isolation for a further examination by a veterinary surgeon, or in the case of suspected Avian Influenza, an APHA veterinary inspector
- Assist in the clean-up of any spilled bedding (from carriers) immediately by double-bagging and spraying with an [approved disinfectant](#) for use against poultry diseases – supplied by the poultry gathering organiser.

### **At the end of the gathering participants must:**

- Remove all their birds and carriers from the gathering venue
- Inspect each bird for signs of ill health, notifying the gathering organiser and/or poultry expert if disease is suspected
- If disease is suspected; isolate those birds for a veterinary inspection and if Avian Influenza is suspected APHA must be notified immediately (as per the organiser's Contingency Plan)
- In the case of suspected Avian Influenza, no birds should leave the premises until an APHA veterinary inspector has permitted the movement.

### **On Return to the place of origin, gathering participants must:**

- Inspect the general health of all birds before removing from the carrier
- Isolate birds returning to the place of origin for a minimum of one week, observing their health throughout that time
- Notify the gathering organiser immediately if ill health or disease is suspected
- Dispose of waste material from the carriers, ideally through heated composting for a minimum of 42 days then applied to land as fertiliser
- Not re-enter any birds (existing or purchased) to participate in a gathering for at least 7 days after returning from another gathering.

### **Useful contacts for Bird Gatherings:**

Defra Rural Services Helpline: 03000 200 301

Wales: 0300 303 8268

Northern Ireland: 0300 200 7840

Scotland (APHA Scotland – Shows/Gatherings): 01463 728 800