

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 you leave your premises to attend a poultry gathering:

- If your premises is within an area of the UK which is under restrictions relating to notifiable avian disease (including Prevention, Protection and Surveillance Zones), you are not permitted to attend gatherings.
- All participants must inspect the health of all birds at the place of origin before departure. Do not move birds if there are any signs, or suspicion of any disease.
- All participants must prepare clean solid-bottom and sided carriers to transport birds.
- All participants must 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, and
- All participants should not enter birds that have attended a poultry gathering in the previous 7 days.

On arrival to the gathering, all participants must:

- Present themselves visibly clean, free from faecal contamination, feathers, or other bedding matter with unsoiled footwear or over-boots
- Present a signed declaration¹, 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
- 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

¹ 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.

- 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, all participants must:

- Remove all their birds and carriers from the gathering venue, unless specifically instructed otherwise
- 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). If Avian Influenza is suspected while the event is on-going, no birds should leave the premises until an APHA veterinary inspector has permitted the movement.

On return to the place of origin, all 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, and
- Acknowledge that the Poultry Club of GB recommends that they not re-enter any birds (existing or purchased) in other shows or participate in another gathering for at least 7 days after returning from a gathering.

Those buying birds at a poultry gathering with the intention of reselling are reminded that they may be subject to the requirements of the bird gathering licence if they move birds off their property within 13 days of the last bird arriving.

Useful contacts numbers for Bird Gatherings:

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| • Defra Rural Services Helpline: | 03000 200 301 |
| • Scotland (APHA Scotland – Shows/Gatherings): | 03000 600 709 |
| • Wales: | 0300 303 8268 |
| • Northern Ireland: | 0300 200 7840 |

Further information is available online at:

- [DEFRA](#)
- [Scottish Government](#)
- [Welsh Government](#)
- [DAERA](#)