

About Newcastle Disease (Fowl Pest)

Background

Following a number of outbreaks of a virulent strain of Newcastle Disease in small poultry flocks, commercial layers and other captive birds in Belgium, Luxemburg and the Netherlands during 2018, APHA experts have advised that the risk of a disease outbreak in Great Britain has been raised from low to Medium (meaning 'outbreak likely to occur').

Risk

Although the risk has increased, government has advised that subject to heightened vigilance we are still able to go ahead with the show/market/gathering subject to extra vigilance and rigid compliance with the biosecurity plan. As an added precaution, as organisers of the gathering, we have decided to require all exhibitors to complete and sign this declaration, confirming that they have not purchased birds or travelled from outside of the UK within the last 21 days and that to the best of your knowledge, their birds do not appear to have Newcastle Disease or have not been in contact with birds showing any symptoms.

Requirement for Organisers and Participants

Organisers must provide the above disease information, and Exhibitors must sign a Newcastle Disease declaration in addition to, or in conjunction with the Avian Influenza declaration (at time of writing) and hand to the gathering Organiser or Biosecurity Officer on arrival and strictly before entry to the gathering.

Failure to produce these documents) duly signed and completed will result in birds being prevented from entering the gathering premises.

How to spot Newcastle Disease

As the disease develops affected birds may show some of the following signs:

- Respiratory distress such as gaping beak, coughing, sneezing, gurgling or rattling
- Nervous signs characterised by tremors and paralysis and twisting of the neck
- Unusually watery faeces (diarrhoea) that are yellowish-green in colour

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- Depression
- Lack of appetite
- Mortality.

Affected birds may also suddenly produce fewer eggs and eggs that are laid may be soft-shelled.

The disease may lead to intense clinical signs, with a sudden onset leading to likely death. Or it may have a lesser affect, with breathing problems and lower egg production the only detectable clinical signs.

How Newcastle Disease is spread

The disease is spread by direct contact with bodily fluids of infected birds, especially their faeces.

It can also be spread indirectly through people and objects that have been in contact with infected birds, or their excretions (such as faeces). Objects that can carry the disease include:

- Vehicles
- Equipment
- Clothing
- Water and Feed.

The disease can spread from wild to kept birds. Pigeons may carry [pigeon paramyxovirus](#), which can cause Newcastle Disease in kept birds.

Further information

England: www.gov.uk/guidance/newcastle-disease#latest-situation

Wales: <https://gov.wales/topics/environmentcountryside/ahw/disease/newcastle-disease/?lang=en>

Scotland: www.gov.scot/Topics/farmingrural/Agriculture/animal-welfare/Diseases/disease/newcastle

The following GB guidance document: [Biosecurity and preventing disease in captive birds](#)

Source: www.gov.uk/guidance/newcastle-disease