

# BIOSECURITY for AVIAN INFLUENZA

## Avian Influenza: The Bottom Line

Avian influenza (AI), also known as “bird flu”, presents a significant threat to poultry producers worldwide. AI can be caused by multiple different strains of Avian Influenza A virus, which may be classified as highly pathogenic (HPAI) or low pathogenic (LPAI) based on the severity of disease that the virus causes[1,2]. While LPAI often causes few or no symptoms, HPAI outbreaks can be devastating to poultry producers, causing widespread destruction to flocks and major business impacts as a result[1,2]. AI infections in humans are uncommon, but can occur, particularly among people working closely with poultry. As such, rigorous biosecurity is critical to protect poultry and people from the health and economic consequences that an AI outbreak would bring.

## Biosecurity is the Best Defense

The term “biosecurity” refers to a variety of measures that all work together to minimize the risk of infectious diseases, whether they are caused by viruses, bacteria, or other microorganisms. The goal of biosecurity is to prevent the entry, spread and exit of pathogens within poultry facilities.



## Keeping AI Out

In the case of AI, a key element of biosecurity involves preventing the virus from entering poultry flocks, which can be accomplished with a few strategies:

- **Avoid contact with wild birds** by controlling the environment. Clean up spilled feed and remove standing water near barns.
- **Maintain strict control over access** to your premises and poultry houses. Limit access and premises to essential personnel only. All visitors are to be documented in a log book.
- **All staff and visitors are to follow biosecurity practices** of changing clothing and footwear or wearing disposable coveralls and booties. Ensure that proper hand washing is part of entry and exit procedures.
- **Clothing should be laundered** on a regular basis, and changing areas should be cleaned and disinfected regularly.
- **Maintain the highest sanitation standards**, ensuring that all poultry premises are cleaned and disinfected as required.
- **Make sure all equipment is cleaned and disinfected** before taking it into poultry houses. It is recommended that trailers and equipment to handle and haul poultry be inspected before entry to the premises.
- **Avoid sharing equipment** between different areas, and equipment that will be used in multiple areas needs to be cleaned and disinfected.

## References:

1. Government of Canada. (2022). “Fact Sheet – Avian Influenza”. <https://inspection.canada.ca/animal-health/terrestrial-animals/diseases/reportable/avian-influenza/fact-sheet/eng/1356193731667/1356193918453>.
2. USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. (2022). “Protect Your Poultry from Avian Influenza”

## Staying Vigilant

Practicing proper biosecurity requires vigilance. Flock health should be monitored, to keep track of mortalities, feed and water consumption, and abnormal bird behaviour. In the case of unexplained mortality or illness, a veterinarian should be consulted, and samples submitted for testing. Dead wild bird sightings should be reported to the [Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative](#).

## Safeguarding Against AI with Prevail™ Disinfectants

Disease outbreaks can be devastating in many ways. In the poultry industries, choosing the right disinfectant will lower the risk of infection without compromise to the safety of users, animals and equipment. Trusted both in times of crisis and for everyday use, Prevail Concentrate has been proven effective against avian influenza virus. Tough on pathogens but gentle on birds and people, Prevail offers a unique balance between safety and effectiveness, providing producers with confidence that they are achieving the highest standard in farm disinfection.

## How to Clean and Disinfect Poultry Premises with Prevail

### Step 1: Dry Clean (Remove Solid Waste)

Using a shovel or scraping tool, remove as much debris and organic material as possible, including feathers, manure, litter, feed, dust, dirt and cobwebs. Start at the top of the building and work down to the floors, from one end of the building to the other.



### Step 2: Pre-soak (if required)

Pre-soak all surfaces and equipment with Prevail Concentrate, using a dilution of 8 mL/L water (1:128). Apply from the bottom to top.



### Step 3: Rinse with Water

Rinse with high pressure water (>1000 psi), working from top to bottom. Use hot water if available.



### Step 4: Disinfect

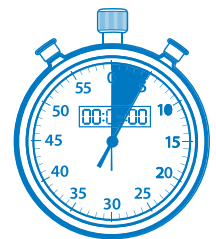
Apply Prevail to all surfaces and equipment, using a dilution of 25 mL/L water (1:40). A foaming applicator is recommended.

Using water and pressure from power washer lines, attach a foaming gun calibrated to deliver a 1:40 dilution. Move the foaming gun quickly and evenly, covering all surfaces and equipment with foam. Work from the bottom upward.



### Step 5: Wait 5 Minutes

Wait for the required contact time of 5 minutes to be reached. No need to rinse or wait for surfaces to dry.



In the event of an outbreak, [CFIA](#) may inspect the cleaning and disinfection process, and provide guidance to producers.

For more information visit [ViroxFarmAnimal.com](http://ViroxFarmAnimal.com)



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