STATE OF VERMONT, AGENCY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND MARKETS AVIAN INFLUENZA RESPONSE PLAN
(FOR ALL STRAINS)

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Introduction and HPAI Information

Purpose of Response Plan

The State of Vermont Avian Influenza (AI) plan provides strategic guidance for responding to an animal health emergency caused by all strains of avian influenza in Vermont. Response strategies for Low Pathogenic AI (LPAI) and Highly Pathogenic AI (HPAI) are incorporated due to the potential for LPAI to mutate into HPAI. The audience for this plan includes local, state, and federal responders; poultry producers; consumers; poultry processors; pertinent businesses. The plan will provide for stakeholder input and participation, overview of passive and active surveillance programs, and planning for a coordinated, pre-planned response in the event of an avian influenza outbreak in the state. This plan will provide SSF-11 support agencies guidance on response roles, will outline the methods by which business continuity and economic security to the Vermont agriculture industry and trading partners may be preserved, and will ensure an adequate level of surveillance and response preparedness for state and federal animal health officials.

The goal of an AI response is to help ensure the economic viability of Vermont's poultry industry and to protect the Vermont Brand. This goal will be carried out through the effective completion of four objectives:

- Prevent the introduction and/or spread of avian influenza in the State.
- Prepare for the rapid and coordinated response to avian influenza in the State.
- Respond to the presence of avian influenza, through testing, quarantine, and depopulation as necessary to minimize the spread of disease, the loss of animals, and disruption in the economy.
- Recover from the economic impact of avian influenza on Vermont's poultry and allied industries.

The plan is subordinate to the Vermont SSF-11 response plan, the Vermont Animal Disaster Emergency Plan, and the Vermont Contagious Disease Response Plan.

The recommendations in this plan are intended to add Vermont-specific clarification to the USDA APHIS HPAI Red Book, which is the federal response plan for Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza. Unless otherwise stated in the content herein, the recommendations, SOPs, and policies included in the Red Book and located on the USDA FAD PReP website will be utilized for an AI response in Vermont. This plan also incorporates portions of, and/or references, the National Veterinary Stockpile Plan, and the Secure Food Supply Plans when appropriate:

- USDA APHIS HPAI Red Book
- FAD PReP
- National Veterinary Stockpile
- Secure Egg Supply Plan
- Secure Turkey Supply Plan
- Secure Broiler Supply Plan

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In AI outbreaks involving zoonotic virus strain(s), this plan will be executed in conjunction with the Vermont Department of Health Pandemic Influenza plan, Incident Annex 8B of the State Emergency Operations Plan.

HPAI Information

Avian Influenza is a disease reportable to the State Veterinarian's office by all licensed veterinarians and by all laboratories. For more information on the disease, including clinical signs, transmission, and prevention, the following resources should be reviewed by stakeholders:

- USDA AI website
- APHIS Animal Health website
- CDC AI website
- Safe handling of poultry and poultry products

Framework for AI Preparedness and Response

Regulatory Authority

6 V.S.A § 1152 authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to administer and enforce the livestock disease program. The Secretary has delegated management of the program to the State Veterinarian and other personnel who are necessary for its sound administration, as allowed by statute. The Secretary may conduct any inspections, investigations, tests, diagnoses, or take other reasonable steps necessary to discover and eliminate contagious diseases existing in domestic animals in the state. The Secretary may contract and cooperate with the United States Department of Agriculture and other federal agencies or other states for the control and eradication of contagious diseases of animals. The Secretary shall consult and cooperate, as appropriate, with the Commissioner of Fish and Wildlife and the Commissioner of Health regarding the control of contagious diseases.

6 V.S.A § 1154 authorizes the Secretary to inspect all domestic animals in the state for contagious diseases and investigate any reports of diseased animals, provided there are adequate resources. In carrying out the provisions of this part, the Secretary, or his/her authorized agent, may enter any real estate, premises, buildings, enclosures, or areas where animals may be found for the purpose of making reasonable inspections and tests. A livestock owner or the person in possession of the animal to be inspected, upon request of the Secretary, shall restrain the animal and make it available for inspection and testing.

6 V.S.A 1157 authorizes the Secretary to order any domestic animals, the premises upon which they are or have been located, any animal products derived from those domestic animals, and any equipment, materials, or products to which they have been exposed to be placed in quarantine.

6 V.S.A. 1158 authorizes the Secretary to establish a quarantine district whenever it is determined that a contagious disease is widely spread throughout an area of the state and that a quarantine district is necessary to contain or prevent the further spread of the disease.

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6 V.S.A. § 1159 authorizes the Secretary to condemn and order destroyed any animal that is infected with or has been exposed to a contagious disease. An order to destroy an animal shall be based on a determination that the destruction of the animal is necessary to prevent or control the spread of the disease. The Secretary shall order any condemned animal to be destroyed and disposed of in accordance with approved methods as specified by rule. The Secretary may order that any real property, building, vehicle, piece of equipment, container, or other article associated with a diseased animal be disinfected and sanitized.

6 V.S.A § 1160 authorizes the Secretary to take such action and issue such emergency rules as are necessary to prevent the introduction or spread of contagious disease of domestic animals.

Organizational Structure

Support organization: Buildings and General Services for facility support

When executing this plan, the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets (VAAFM) will follow the National Response Framework principles and will utilize the Incident Management System for emergency response. The VAAFM ICS chart will be modified as necessary to allow efficient response to an outbreak and will utilize personnel from other departments, agencies, and organizations (Appendix 1). Since the legal/statutory authority for the control of contagious animal disease in Vermont rests with VAAFM, the Agriculture Operations Center will be activated to carry out the functions of Incident Command, and the State Emergency Operations Center will manage emergency response support/statewide resource coordination when requested by Incident Command. Incident Command will reside at the VAAFM headquarter office located at 116 State Street, Montpelier, unless additional space is needed or a field-based Incident Command Post is more practical based on the context of the outbreak. VAAFM has identified the laboratory space in Berlin as its alternate COOP site, and this space may be utilized if the Incident Command Post needs exceed that which is available at 116 State Street. The Vermont Department of Buildings and General Services may also assist with the identification of an alternate suitable field-based Incident Command Post site and/or with the relocation of the Agriculture Operations Center.

Command and Control

Support organization: USDA APHIS Veterinary Services for Command assistance; Department of Public Safety for activation of the State Emergency Operations Center and assistance with Declaration language drafting

In the event of an outbreak of avian influenza in Vermont, the State will work collaboratively with USDA APHIS, which receives its permanent and general regulatory authority for foreign and emerging animal diseases from the Animal Health Protection Act (AHPA), 7 U.S.C. 8301 et seq. In all instances, a delegation of authority (Appendix 2) will be made by the State Veterinarian or designee prescribing the responsibilities that will be carried out by USDA APHIS, and the terms of the delegation will be dependent on the context of the outbreak. Following the delegation of authority, the State Veterinarian, or designee, and the USDA APHIS District Director or designee will generally provide direction and leadership during the response period through a Unified Incident Command; to support that command structure, the USDA APHIS lead must be co-located at the Agriculture Operations Center. If there is a

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need and adequate resources exist, additional USDA APHIS personnel may be stationed at the State Emergency Operations Center in order to help ensure continuity of response operations. Depending on the availability of the VAAFM Secretary and Deputy Secretary to act as a liaison to the Governor's office, there may be instances where the State Veterinarian or Assistant State Veterinarian is not filling the role of Incident Commander. VAAFM may request support personnel from USDA Incident Management Teams and the National Animal Health Emergency Response Corp (NAHERC) for response assistance. The Foreign Animal Disease Response Ready Reference Guide – Roles and Responsibilities is a document covering USDA roles and coordination in animal disease responses that describes authorities, funding, relationships among federal departments, incident management, and communication strategies during an FAD incident.

If the location(s) of one or more Index Premises results in the designation of multi-state Control Area(s), consideration will be given to the establishment of an Area Command structure in order to support the needs of the impacted states. In the event that an Area Command is established, the Vermont State Veterinarian or designee will work collaboratively with other New England/New York state animal health officials to make recommendations to a USDA APHIS Area Commander regarding response resource allocation and related support.

In addition to the notifications referenced elsewhere in this plan, if criminal activity is suspected, Incident Command will notify state or local law enforcement; if terrorist activity is suspected, Incident Command will notify the FBI.

The Secretary of Agriculture may request that the Governor declare a state of emergency once state resources have been exhausted or are determined to be inadequate. If a Declaration is necessary, the VAAFM Secretary will work collaboratively with the Commissioner of Public Safety in order to develop appropriate language. A declaration of emergency will allow the use of necessary resources that would otherwise be unavailable, such as the Vermont National Guard and the Emergency Management Assistance Compact.

In situations where Control Area(s) established for purposes of disease response and containment encompass multiple states, it may be necessary to establish an Area Command structure, which will be led by the USDA APHIS District Director or designee and one or more of the State Veterinarians from the states impacted or their designees.

Laboratory Support

Laboratory support for diagnostic testing will be provided by laboratories in the National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN) and by the National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL). NAHLN labs have been approved by USDA APHIS to perform official tests. Northeast regional NAHLN laboratories approved to conduct preliminary AI diagnostics include:

- Connecticut Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory
  61 N Eagleville Rd U-3089, Storrs, CT 06269
  (860) 486-3738

- Animal Health Diagnostic Center
  Ithaca, NY
  (607) 253-3900
- University of New Hampshire Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory
  NHVDL
  129 Main St., Kendall Hall
  Durham, NH 03824
  603-862-2726

In accordance with USDA APHIS protocols, confirmatory testing and virus subtyping will be conducted at NVSL.

- National Veterinary Services Lab
  1920 Dayton Ave
  Ames IA 50010
  515-337-7551 (Diagnostic Virology)

  515-337-7200 (Dispatch – emergency triage for after hours and weekends)

Disease Prevention and Preparedness

Surveillance Activities

All domestic poultry exhibited or shown in Vermont are required by rule to be tested for Pullorum-Typhoid prior to commingling, and the VAAFM Animal Health Section concurrently performs routine surveillance for avian influenza in partnership with USDA APHIS Veterinary Services (VS). While some may think it prudent to cancel Vermont's poultry commingling events in response to an AI outbreak elsewhere in the U.S., doing so would actually decrease VAAFM's ability to survey backyard poultry for disease. Avian Influenza testing is also performed on individual premises and in response to calls from producers with sick birds. Real-time reverse transcriptase polymerase chain reaction (rrt-PCR) and serologic testing are used as screening tests for monitoring purposes. Positive tests are required to be immediately reported to the Office of the State Veterinarian. Commercial slaughterhouses in Vermont utilize inspectors trained by USDA FSIS to recognize avian influenza on ante- and post-mortem inspection. All birds commercially slaughtered and/or processed in these facilities are viewed by an inspector. The Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife partners with USDA-APHIS Wildlife Services to complete surveillance of the wild bird population.

Premises Identification and Geographic Information Systems Mapping

Support organizations: Vermont Agency of Natural Resources; Natural Resources Conservation Services for premises mapping assistance

When VAAFM receives information for poultry producers, it is entered into the USAHerds database and maintained in an easily searchable format. With an assigned database password and internet access, Incident Command may obtain premises information outside of the State firewall, including in the State

Emergency Operations Center. The mapping software affiliated with USAHerds can be utilized to develop radius maps and disease zones related to Infected Premises as long as E911 addresses are known and have been verified. Currently, only poultry premises that qualify as Large or Medium Farm Operations are permitted by VAAFM. Since most of Vermont's poultry premises do not meet the permitting threshold, VAAFM is prevented from maintaining a complete dataset of poultry in the state; this complicates outreach and emergency preparedness/response efforts. Once entered into USAHerds, premises are automatically assigned a state registration number. Poultry producers are encouraged to obtain a federal premises identification number and can do so by contacting the VAAFM Animal Health office at (802)828-2421, Monday – Friday, 7:45 AM – 3:30 PM or the USDA APHIS VS District Office in Sutton, MA at (508)363-2290.

The USAHerds farm dataset may be utilized to populate the VAAFM GIS environment in order to generate maps that contain more detailed topographical and farm status information during a response. VAAFM also has in-house mapping capabilities related to multiple farm types, topographical features, soil types and proximity to waterways that can be utilized to inform depopulation and carcass disposal decisions. The Vermont Agency of Natural Resources and the Natural Resources Conservation Service also have subject matter experts who could provide support during this process and topographical data that can be utilized to inform decisions that must be made by Incident Command.

Producer Preparation

VAAFM staff members actively engage producers regarding recommended disease prevention practices. This engagement occurs during poultry comingling events and on-farm visits during sample collection for AI surveillance, and through social media outlets, the VAAFM website, the Animal Agriculture Alert Network, and media correspondence such as news releases and interviews.

Vermont's poultry–owning population is diverse; it is comprised of numerous small hobby farms that raise eggs or meat for on-farm consumption and/or for sales at farm stands/farmers markets, numerous individuals who own poultry as pets (some living in more urbanized or suburban parts of the state), and commercial enterprises that raise meat birds or layers for egg production. The largest Vermont meat bird farm raises approximately 30,000 floor turkeys per year, and the largest egg farm houses approximately 50,000 to 60,000 layers at any given time in mixed floor and vertical stack cage housing. Vermont also has several contract egg producers, each of whom manage approximately 10,000 layers per production cycle. From April 1, 2015 through June 30, 2015, Vermont imported 85,000 head of poultry, representative of turkeys, layers, youngstock and mature birds. VAAFM's expectation is that all poultry owners, regardless of size and type, implement biosecurity practices on their farm for disease prevention and control on an ongoing basis. Biosecurity plans are required during disease outbreaks for permitted movement of livestock or farm equipment on and off of farms within control zones, in accordance with the secure food supply plans. All producers are encouraged to register their poultry facilities with VAAFM by contacting the Animal Health office at (802)828-2421 so that they may receive outreach materials and updates prior to and during a disease outbreak. Poultry owners who depend on farm related movement of poultry and non-poultry related products on and off of their premises should submit a completed Poultry Producer Preparedness Biosecurity Audit in order to expedite permitted

movement during a disease outbreak. Producers who do not complete this process in advance of an outbreak may not be permitted to move poultry or poultry products off of their premises if they are in a Control Area.

Poultry owners are encouraged to establish a veterinary client patient relationship (V-C-P-R) with an accredited VT-licensed veterinarian who has experience with poultry and is willing to examine and treat birds on an individual or flock basis. VAAFM maintains a list of veterinarians who meet these criteria (Appendix 3).

Poultry owners may communicate with the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, Department of Environmental Conservation in order to obtain a property analysis that will help determine the most appropriate site for carcass disposal. They may also communicate in advance of an outbreak with USDA APHIS Wildlife Services regarding on-farm wild bird mitigation programs intended to lessen direct and indirect interaction between wild resident and migratory waterfowl and domestic poultry.

Organic poultry producers should familiarize themselves with the policy on indoor confinement of poultry developed by the Northeast Organic Farmers Association in 2015. This time-limited exemption from having to house poultry outdoors during an outbreak in order to maintain organic certification may be activated in the event that HPAI impacts Vermont.

Vermont has an active Avian Influenza Advisory Committee that will provide preparedness and planning input and will assist with pertinent information dissemination to contacts within their respective networks. Member participation is at the request of the State Veterinarian and is agreed to on a voluntary basis (Appendix 4)

Responder Preparation

Support organizations: University of Vermont and USDA APHIS Veterinary Services for fit testing assistance; Vermont Department of Health for just-in-time provision of PPE supplies; Vermont Hazmat for provision of donning/doffing training

Fit Testing

Respirators are required Personal Protective Equipment for avian influenza response. Respirators are those devices that have an N or P in the name, including those made of paper. Respiratory fit testing for all face-fitting respirators should be performed via a qualitative (not quantitative) procedure in advance of an avian influenza outbreak and on an annual basis for all known or potential responders who expect to have interaction with infected poultry or poultry products during a response. Respiratory fit testing should be done more frequently if a responder change occurs such as significant weight loss. While fit testing may be able to be completed on a just in time basis, the prerequisite medical clearance cannot be. Annual fit testing of pertinent responders will ensure that adequate inventories of necessary respirators are readily available when needed. Powered air purifying respirators (PAPR) do not require fitting because they are not face-sealing, but their use does require medical clearance. Although medical clearance and fit testing are not required for the use of dust masks, these devices are inadequate for avian influenza response and should not be utilized.

The list of fit tested VAAFM employees is maintained in the Avian Influenza shared folder. Results of fit testing were provided to each employee on a small palm card. Employees of the district health offices, located in every county except for Essex and Grand Isle, are regularly fit tested. Two options exist for medical clearance/respiratory fit testing for Vermont responders; they are the following:

- Preferred - Utilization of the University of Vermont Health Network – the regional center closest to the VAAFM office in Montpelier is the Central Vermont Medical Center located at 130 Fisher Road Berlin, Vermont 05602 (Mailing Address: Attn. Occupational Medicine P.O. Box 547 Barre, Vermont 05641) **Phone:** 802-225-3942; **Fax:** 802-225-3959; https://www.cvmc.org/our-services/occupational-medicine
- Alternative 1 – Utilization of the USDA APHIS VS District Office safety officer, with certain geographic and logistical constraints. When utilizing VS services for fit testing, a copy of the responder's medical clearance document must be provided in advance of the fitting. VS is only authorized to fit the following respirators: N-95, N-100 (both disposables); ½ face non-disposable rubber or silicone; full face respirator
- Alternative 2 – Utilization of internet-based companies for medical clearance of responders. This option should only be considered if the others are not available. Although the turnaround time with this is faster, the accountability for medical assessments is less, and there is no instate point of contact who can field follow up questions. This circumstance may pose more liability for the employer of the medically cleared responders

Medical clearance for all fit-tested responders should be updated every three years.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

VAAFM maintains a small inventory of multi-sized PPE that is appropriate for an avian influenza response. Depending on the scale of the outbreak, additional supplies may be ordered from Gempler's (www.gemplers.com) utilizing funding from the USDA Umbrella cooperative agreement, ordered through Grainger supply using the state contract, and/or requested through the National Veterinary Stockpile. The Vermont Department of Health may have PPE (N 95 masks and Tyvek suits) immediately available through its Strategic National Stockpile, overseen by the Vermont National Guard, that could be utilized during the initial phases of a response until additional materials can be ordered or acquired. Vermont Hazmat personnel may provide just-in-time training for PPE donning and doffing procedures if available, and/or the incident Safety Officer may refer responders to the PPE overview, including donning and doffing procedures, available through FAD Prep.

Biosecurity Equipment

VAAFM maintains an inventory of Virkon-S concentrate, an effective disinfectant for use in an avian influenza response, and maintains a supply of stainless steel wash buckets, boot brushes and nitrile gloves for two state veterinarians and three animal health specialists. The inspection staff within the VAAFM meat inspection program has also been provided with wash equipment and Virkon-S. Depending on the scale of the outbreak, additional supplies may be ordered from Gempler's utilizing funding from the USDA Umbrella cooperative agreement, and/or requested through the National Veterinary

Stockpile. The VAAFM Safety Officer for an HPAI response has drafted a document entitled *Biosecurity Protocol for Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets Staff* (Appendix 5).

Outbreak Response

Support organizations: Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife, USDA APHIS Wildlife Services, and USDA APHIS Veterinary Services for consultation on Plan activation following detection of HPAI in wild birds and domestic poultry, respectively

Report of avian influenza in wild birds

Outside of the Atlantic Flyway

When there is a confirmed laboratory diagnosis of avian influenza in flyways other than the Atlantic flyway, response activities will include convening the Avian Influenza Advisory Council; increasing biosecurity outreach and communication with poultry stakeholders; evaluating the need for updated import regulations and/or emergency rule promulgation, evaluating the need for cancellation of poultry comingling events; ensuring staff preparedness and evaluating the need for additional biosecurity equipment; maintaining regular communication with state and federal partners that have primary jurisdictional authority and subject matter expertise with wildlife; and providing ongoing situational awareness to the Governor's office and DEHMS. Regarding the need to cancel poultry comingling events in this circumstance, while some may think blanket cancellation is prudent, doing so would actually decrease VAAFM's ability to survey backyard poultry for disease since VAAFM Animal Health Specialists perform AI testing at poultry commingling events.

Within the Atlantic Flyway

When there is a confirmed laboratory diagnosis of avian influenza in the Atlantic flyway, response activities will include all of the above, and will include cancellation of Vermont poultry comingling events as needed to protect the domestic poultry population; execution of the authority in the Rules Governing the Importation of Domestic Animals Including Livestock and Poultry to require avian influenza testing for imported poultry; consideration of other increased poultry surveillance activities; and utilization of sick bird intake form when triaging sick bird reports (Appendix 6).

Within Vermont

When there is a confirmed laboratory diagnosis of avian influenza in a wild bird in Vermont, response activities will include the above, and these activities will be carried out in direct consultation with the Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife and USDA APHIS Wildlife Services. Portions of this plan will be executed as needed in a manner that is subordinate to the *State of Vermont Surveillance and Response Plan for Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza H5N1 in Wild Birds* plan, under the jurisdiction of the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, Department of Fish and Wildlife and U.S. Department of Agriculture Animal, Plant Health Inspection Survey/Wildlife Services.

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Positive diagnosis in domestic birds

In a Northeastern State

A presumptive positive or confirmed positive laboratory diagnosis of avian influenza in domestic birds in another northeastern state will likely be communicated to VAAFM through several channels. If the occurrence is located in a New England state, the communication of that event would likely flow through the established channels of the New England States Animal Agriculture Security Alliance, which is the embodiment of a chartered agreement between the six New England states to work cooperatively on issues pertaining to animal agricultural emergency preparedness, response and recovery. If the occurrence is in a non-New England state, then the event will likely be communicated to Vermont officials by the USDA APHIS VS District One office located in Sutton Massachusetts (Appendix 7).

In Vermont

A positive laboratory diagnosis of avian influenza in domestic birds in the state could occur through multiple means, including through staff or private veterinarian response to a report of sick/dying/dead birds, as the result of a Foreign Animal Disease investigation conducted by a state or federal FADD, or the result of routine, non-outbreak surveillance activities. A positive result reported by a NAHLN lab will be considered a presumptive positive and will be sent automatically by the NAHLN lab to NVSL for confirmatory testing. Case definitions in this plan are subordinate to case definitions in the Red Book and to case definitions as they evolve in each avian influenza outbreak response. The case definitions in this plan are from the 2012 edition of the Red Book. In any specific HPAI outbreak, case definitions may be edited within 24 hours of the first presumptive or confirmed positive case (index case). The case definitions are reviewed throughout the outbreak and modified on the basis of additional information or the changing needs of the eradication effort.

Case Definitions

1. General comments: AI can infect almost all species of birds. Domestic poultry meeting the clinical case definition for Notifiable Avian Influenza (NAI) H5/H7 are those with one or a combination of the following clinical signs and gross lesions: reduction in normal vocalization; listlessness; conjunctivitis; drops in egg production sometimes with pale, misshapen or thin-shelled eggs; respiratory signs such as rales, snicking, and dyspnea; neurological signs such as incoordination or torticollis; a drop in feed and/or water consumption; swollen or necrotic combs and wattles; swollen head and legs; lungs filled with fluid and blood; tracheitis and air sacculitis; petechial hemorrhages on internal organs (Easterday et al. 1997); OR, flocks that experience mortality as listed for each compartment as follows

a. Commercial broilers: mortality exceeding 4 birds/1,000 per day for 2 consecutive days.

b. Commercial layers: 4 times normal daily mortality for 2 consecutive days (0.5/1,000 per day for layers from 2 to 50 weeks and 0.75/1,000 over 3 days.

c. Commercial turkeys: mortality in excess of 2 birds/1,000 per day.

d. Backyard flocks: any sudden and significant mortality event or sudden drop in egg production should be investigated.

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2. Suspect case: A tentative diagnosis of NAI based on the clinical case definition in consultation with SAHOs and APHIS' AVIC; OR positive laboratory samples taken during routine surveillance with or without the presence of clinical criteria.

3. Presumptive positive case: A suspect case with one of the following criteria:

a. Detection of antibodies to influenza A in sera as determined by AGID serological test that cannot be explained by vaccination and subsequent subtyping by hemagglutination-inhibition and neuraminidase-inhibition and identification as H5 or H7 with any NA subtype; OR,

b. Identification of influenza A RNA by rrt-PCR and determination of subtype as H5/H7.

4. Confirmed positive case: The isolation of influenza A virus and identification as an H5 or H7 subtype (NAI) and subsequent determination of pathogenicity (HPNAI or H5/H7 LPNAI) by USDA's NVSL.

Activation of Plan

Support organizations: Vermont Department of Emergency Management & Homeland Security; USDA APHIS Veterinary Services; Vermont Department of Health for collaboration during initial Plan activation

This response plan will be activated when there is one of the following in domestic poultry within Vermont:

(a) Suspect Case; OR
(b) Clinical signs AND Presumptive Positive test performed at NAHLN lab; OR
(c) Confirmed Positive test performed at NVSL regardless of the presence of supporting clinical signs.

The State Veterinarian or designee will initiate emergency operation activities including a request for activation of State Emergency Operations Center through a request to the DEHMS Watch Officer by calling 800-347-0488 and will request that the Secretary of Agriculture activate the Agriculture Operations Center to carry out the functions of Incident Command. The VAAFM Animal Disease Emergency ICS chart will be instituted (Appendix 1) and will likely be modified depending on the scope of the outbreak and other associated factors. The State Veterinarian will open communication with USDA APHIS VS through the District One Director or Assistant Director who would already be aware of the test result through the NVSL reporting system (Appendix 7). The State Veterinarian will provide a situational briefing to the Secretary of Agriculture for communication to the Governor's office. Immediately following this initial communication, a conference call will be scheduled including, at a minimum, the State Veterinarian or designee, the Secretary of Agriculture or designee, the USDA District Director or designee, and the DEMHS Watch Officer or designee to discuss the anticipated level of SEOC activation needed based on the scope of the outbreak. Based on the conference call discussion, decision makers will jointly agree on the level of activation of the State Emergency Operations Center, and DEMHS will be responsible for activating pertinent SSF representatives. Concurrent with the activation of this response plan, the Vermont Department of Health will activate its Health Operations

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Center in order to monitor the situation, provide support to Incident Command as requested and provide representation to the State Emergency Operations Center.

Response Resources

Support organizations: USDA APHIS Veterinary Services for provision of National Veterinary Stockpile countermeasures; Vermont Department of Buildings and General Services and Vermont Department of Health for identification of suitable warehouse space to store countermeasures

National Veterinary Stockpile (NVS)

It is expected that with any significant HPAI outbreak in Vermont, there will be a need to order federal countermeasures, including equipment and personnel resources, from the NVS. The NVS is a cache of response equipment, supplies and trained personnel resources that can be deployed for arrival to an outbreak within 48 hours of a request. The *Overview of the NVS SOP* provides the outline of requirements for ordering NVS countermeasures, the process for ordering resources, and a link to the NVS planning website for additional resources. The VAAFM maintains a NVS plan, which can be accessed through the Animal Health section shared drive and should be followed any time that countermeasures are being requested.

The following is a summary of steps to request NVS countermeasures and the State's responsibilities once the countermeasures arrive:

- The State Veterinarian and the USDA APHIS Assistant District Director determine that existing resources will not be enough and decide NVS countermeasures are needed.
- They contact the USDA APHIS District One Director, who concurs with their assessment and calls the NVS/National Preparedness and Incident Coordination (NPIC) emergency hotline, (800) 940-6524.
- The NVS returns the call immediately and engages in a conference call with necessary officials to determine the details of the request, including the
    - damaging animal disease,
    - infected species and estimated number of animals,
    - number of responders fielded immediately,
    - number of affected premises, and
    - name and contact information for point of contact in Incident Command.
- Once APHIS approves the NVS deployment, the NVS informs the District Director and coordinates the deployment with State personnel. Depending on the size of the response and availability of NVS personnel, it may deploy a mobile logistics team to give State personnel technical assistance regarding the NVS.
- The State activates a system (typically one or more warehouses) for
    - receiving the countermeasures,
    - storing them,
    - managing and replenishing the inventory of countermeasures,
    - issuing the countermeasures,
    - staging the countermeasures for delivery,
    - delivering them to responders in the field,
    - recovering unused and reusable countermeasures after an event, and
    - packing recovered countermeasures and coordinating with the NVS for their return to NVS distribution facilities.

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- The State deactivates its system for distributing countermeasures.

Identification of a suitable warehouse site for receipt, processing and storage of NVS equipment is a prerequisite for placing an order for countermeasures. Several potential options exist for identification of a suitable warehouse space. The existing Vermont plan references the fact that Vermont Department of Buildings and General Services will make a just-in-time identification of suitable warehouse facilities. Alternatives worth considering include the use of warehouse space procured by the Vermont Department of Health (with concurrence by that Department), use of a regional warehouse maintained by the New England States Animal Agriculture Security Alliance, and use of a courier service willing to drop ship requested supplies and equipment directly to impacted premises, thereby bypassing the need for a centrally located warehouse. The last of these options might be associated with considerable additional expense. The NVS has contractor support for 3D activities (depopulation, disposal, decontamination), which can be requested by Incident Command. The surge response capacity of 3D commercial responders is a response to the site within 24 hours, 500 – 600 people within 72 hours, and 1,000 people within a week.

Responder Well-being and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Support Organizations: Vermont Occupational Safety and Health Administration to assist with ensuring responder safety; Vermont Department of Health to monitor health of responders; Vermont Department of Buildings and General Services for identifying lodging options for deployed responders

The safety and well-being of all responders is of paramount importance and will be overseen by the Safety Officer. Although VAAFM has an employee who has been designated as a Safety Officer for an HPAI response, personnel within the Vermont Occupational Safety and Health Consultation Program (Project WorkSAFE), may provide assistance to the Safety Officer and/or fulfill this role during multiple operational periods. Responder safety experts from the Project WorkSAFE may also fill the role of on-site safety officers on premises where response activities are occurring.

The Safety Officer may utilize the services of the Vermont Farm First program during the response and/or recovery phases of the emergency. The Farm First program provides free 24/7 confidential consultation, resources and support to farmers and their families as well as to responders who may be in need of those services. A safety officer packet that outlines these services has been provided to the Safety Officer for an Avian Influenza response.

Medically trained employees of the Vermont Department of Health will monitor flock owners and responders for clinical signs of avian influenza in accordance with protocols in its response plan. The Vermont Department of Buildings and General Services may assist with procurement of lodging for deployed responders. Emergency responders must follow accepted PPE SOPs when conducting investigation or sampling activities on impacted premises. Responders may travel from one confirmed infected premises to another with no waiting period in between if proper mitigating procedures are followed. Responders must observe a minimum 72 hour waiting period and must follow additional personal hygiene mitigation steps as determined by the Incident Command if required to travel from a confirmed infected premises to a free, suspect, or unknown status premises, although this practice should be avoided whenever possible. Appendix 8 outlines the estimated number of units needed in

each of the categories below, as well as other response resources needed, for 3 month and 6 month periods.

- Minimal PPE requirements for all cases include:
  - Gloves
  - Washable/removable outerwear
  - Washable pull over boots
- More protective PPE requirements:
  - Tyvek suits
  - N95 masks that have been FIT tested for the individual wearer
  - Plastic disposable booties
  - Double gloves
  - Hair net
  - Goggles

In all cases, PPE must be changed between premises. VAAFM responders who have been fit tested have also been provided with PPE donning/doffing training. Incident Command will provide case by case PPE requirements as the outbreak evolves. Additional guidance, including just-in-time donning and doffing procedures, will be provided by an Incident Management Team safety officer and/or Hazmat officials once this plan is activated.

Vaccination of Birds

The use of HPAI vaccination must be permitted by USDA APHIS VS as its use has an impact on international trade and the return to "freedom from disease" status of the U.S. At the time of this writing, USDA APHIS VS is exploring the possibility of supporting the development of, and including in the National Veterinary Stockpile countermeasures inventory, efficacious vaccine products. Use of sub-par vaccine products in the face of an outbreak could be counterproductive by increasing the likelihood that vaccinated birds which are subsequently infected will shed the virus and remain asymptomatic, thereby increasing the risk of disease transmission to naive poultry and continued disease spread. More information on USDA policy pertaining to use of vaccination in contagious disease outbreaks can be viewed in the NAHEMS Guidelines for Vaccination of Contagious Diseases document.

Vaccination of Responders

The decisions surrounding the potential vaccination of responders will be made by the Vermont Department of Health.

Communication Strategies

Support persons: PIOs or the equivalent representing the USDA ADHIS Office of Legislative and Public Affairs, Vermont Department of Health, Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, Vermont Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security and the Vermont Governor's office to provide messaging at the Joint Information Center, either in-person or remotely; UVM Extension, Northeast Organic Farmers Association, Vermont Farm Bureau, Rural Vermont to assist with dissemination of accurate outbreak information to constituents/members; Vermont 211 to assist with triaging incoming calls from the public, collect contact information from poultry owners, and monitor information trends

Effective communication during a Vermont HPAI outbreak may be carried out and maintained by establishing a network of stakeholders and systems for communication prior to an incident or outbreak; briefing the media, public, industry, Congress, trading partners, and others on the HPAI outbreak status and the actions being taken to control and eradicate the disease; coordinating with Federal, State, and local agencies, producer groups, and the UVM Extension Service to ensure consistent messaging regarding animal health, public health, and food safety. In addition, all communications should highlight the importance of sound biosecurity measures and steps that producers and owners can take to protect against HPAI infection in their own flocks as well as mechanisms for reporting sick/dying birds. The Public Information Officer for a HPAI response will develop and maintain the Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Response Communication Plan, in consultation with counterparts in sister agencies/departments. The most recent iteration of this communications plan is attached to this response plan as Appendix 9.

The federal HPAI Communication SOP provides additional guidance on communications activities during an HPAI outbreak, covering the responsibilities of personnel and internal and external communication procedures. APHIS Legislative and Public Affairs (LPA) will serve as the primary liaison with the news media in the event of an HPAI outbreak. In all instances, a Joint Information Center (JIC) will be established in the same location as the State Emergency Operations Center and will be comprised of communications personnel from the Vermont Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security, VAAFM, the Vermont Department of Health, and the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources. Other representatives may be involved depending on the nature of the outbreak. During an HPAI outbreak, APHIS LPA and the USDA Office of Communications will coordinate messaging with the JIC. Response-related messaging that is created by the JIC must be approved by the Governor's office prior to dissemination as per the process already followed by the Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security. The JIC should utilize existing mass communication outlets, targeted outreach and social media to disseminate important messaging.

The Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife and USDA APHIS Wildlife Services will disseminate important messages to stakeholders with whom they interact such as licensed hunters. The University of Vermont Extension Service, the Northeast Organic Farmers Association, the Vermont Farm Bureau and Rural Vermont can help disseminate important messaging to Vermont poultry owners of all sizes.

Currently, Vermont poultry owners are encouraged to report unusual poultry morbidity/mortality events to the Animal Health office at (802)828-2421. During an AI response, the Incident Command will determine the mechanism for receiving morbidity/mortality reports. Vermont 211 may assist with triaging sick bird calls by utilizing the intake form located in Appendix 6 or a similar abbreviated document. If Vermont 211 is designated to receive response-related calls, the SOPs for doing so will be outlined in an MOU and contract that will be established between VAAFM and Vermont 211.

In addition to the HPAI Communications SOP, the following resources provide guidance on communication and information about various stakeholder groups:

- USDA AI website

- APHIS Animal Health website
- FAD PReP Stakeholder Coordination and Collaboration Resource Guide
- CDC AI website
- Safe handling of poultry and poultry products

USDA, in partnership with the Department of Health and Human Services, Department of the Interior, and Department of Homeland Security, has developed three scenarios in the event of a detection and/or outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza in the United States.
The scenarios are:

- a highly pathogenic avian influenza detection in the United States;
- a highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza detection in wild birds; and
- a highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza detection in commercial poultry

Each of these scenarios contains a series of key questions and answers about animal health, guidance for the public, as well as a summary of the actions USDA would take in the event of a highly pathogenic avian influenza detection in the United States. These FAQ documents may serve as messaging templates during an AI response.

Response Activities in Control Area

Support organizations: Vermont State Police for quarantine enforcement; Vermont Department of Health, CERT members, University of Vermont, municipal officials, Farm Services Agency, Natural Resources Conservation Services for assistance with door to door interviews; Vermont Department of Health for assistance with diagnostic sampling; USDA APHIS Veterinary Services for permitting assistance; Agency of Natural Resources Department of Environmental Conservation for permit reviews; Vermont Hazmat Team for monitoring of clean/dirty lines and assistance with vehicle disinfection; Vermont Agency of Transportation for roadway exemption approvals

State-employed responders, regardless of the type and location of response activities, should utilize the State Fleet vehicles for transportation whenever possible. Fleet vehicles are located in Montpelier, Rutland and Burlington. Fleet management has confirmed that if this Plan is activated, they will make every effort to secure Fleet Motor Pool vehicles for use by responders. The class code that will be utilized for this purpose is 85000. In the event that usage of a Fleet vehicle is not possible due to timing and/or geographic proximity, responders will be permitted to use personal vehicles and will be reimbursed for mileage.

Response surveillance in this plan includes door to door interviews to identify poultry owners within Control Area(s), epidemiological investigations and diagnostic testing to determine the extent of the outbreak, establishment of movement control areas, detection of infected premises, and information gathering to inform outbreak control activities including animal and product movement in and out of a Control Area.

During this period, the goals of Incident Command are to as quickly as possible:

- Locate and map index premises in USAHerds database.

- Establish zones based on the location(s) of the index premises, which will evolve as the epidemiological investigation proceeds.
- Create the initial Buffer Zone designation and the boundary of the Control Area.
- Create a list of premises with susceptible flocks (and species) in the Control Area.
- Determine the boundary of the Surveillance Zone and start developing a surveillance plan to be used in the Surveillance Zone.

Establishment of Control Areas

Control areas are based on locations of Infected Premises. The perimeter of the Control Area should be at least 10 km (~6.21 miles) beyond the perimeter of the closest Infected Premises. The size of the Control Area depends on the circumstances of the outbreak, including the Infected Premises transmission pathways and estimates of transmission risk, poultry movement patterns and concentrations, distribution of susceptible wildlife in proximity, natural terrain, jurisdictional boundaries, and other factors. The boundaries of the Control Area can be modified or redefined as tracing and other epidemiological information becomes available.

All livestock premises in the Control Area(s) will initially be placed under quarantine, effectively forming a quarantine district, and movement of animals, products and conveyances onto and off of these premises must be permitted if the premises contain poultry. The Vermont State Police will provide quarantine enforcement support to Incident Command. Permitted movement into, out of and within the Control Area(s) is discussed on page 23 of this plan.

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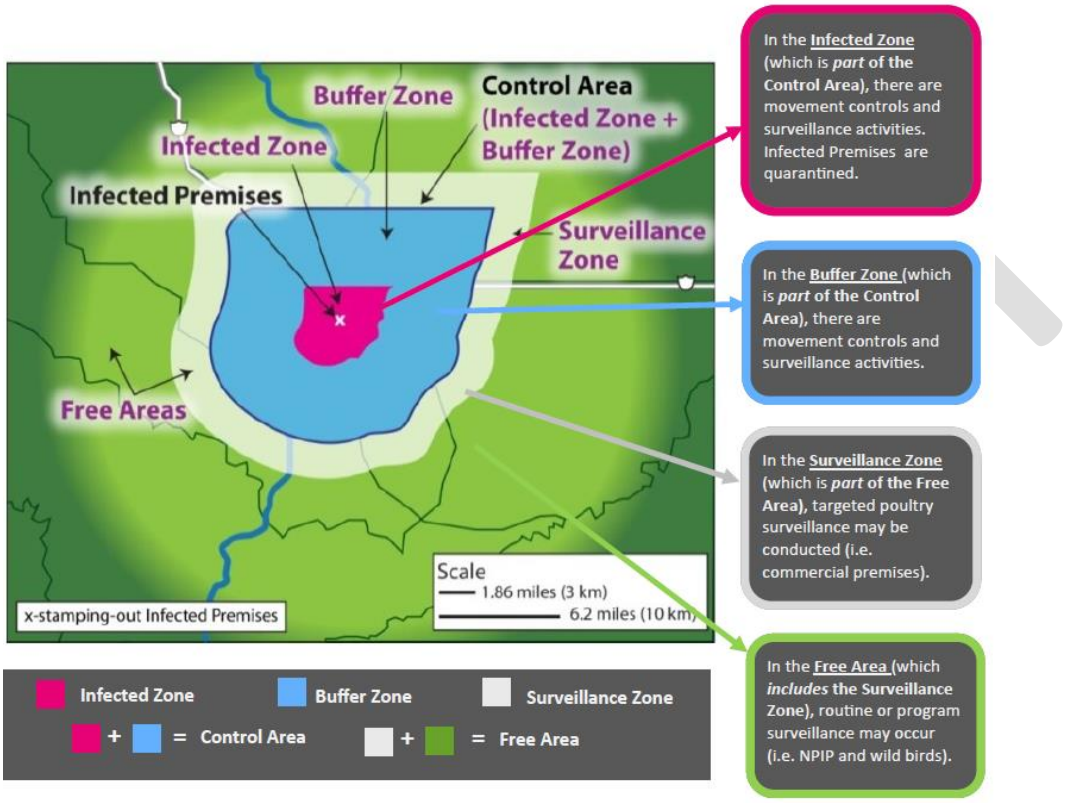
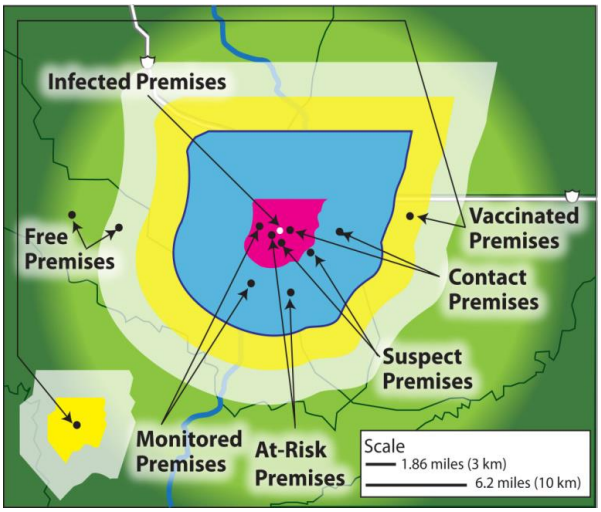
Zone/Area	Definition
Infected Zone (IZ)	Zone that immediately surrounds an Infected Premises.
Buffer Zone (BZ)	Zone that immediately surrounds an Infected Zone or a Contact Premises.
Control Area (CA)	Consists of an Infected Zone and a Buffer Zone.
Surveillance Zone (SZ)	Zone outside and along the border of a Control Area.
Free Area (FA)	Area not included in any Control Area.





Summary of Premises Designations

Premises	Definition	Zone
Infected Premises (IP)	Premises where a presumptive positive case or confirmed positive case exists based on laboratory results, compatible clinical signs, HPAI case definition, and international standards.	Infected Zone
Contact Premises (CP)	Premises with susceptible animals that may have been exposed to HPAI, either directly or indirectly, including but not limited to exposure to animals, animal products, fomites, or people from Infected Premises.	Infected Zone, Buffer Zone
Suspect Premises (SP)	Premises under investigation due to the presence of susceptible animals reported to have clinical signs compatible with HPAI. This is intended to be a short-term premises designation.	Infected Zone, Buffer Zone, Surveillance Zone, Vaccination Zone
At-Risk Premises (ARP)	Premises that have susceptible animals, but none of those susceptible animals have clinical signs compatible with HPAI. Premises objectively demonstrates that it is not an Infected Premises, Contact Premises, or Suspect Premises. At-Risk Premises seek to move susceptible animals or products within the Control Area by permit. Only At-Risk Premises are eligible to become Monitored Premises.	Infected Zone, Buffer Zone
Monitored Premises (MP)	Premises objectively demonstrates that it is not an Infected Premises, Contact Premises, or Suspect Premises. Only At-Risk Premises are eligible to become Monitored Premises. Monitored Premises meet a set of defined criteria in seeking to move susceptible animals or products out of the Control Area by permit.	Infected Zone, Buffer Zone
Free Premises (FP)	Premises outside of a Control Area and not a Contact or Suspect Premises.	Surveillance Zone, Free Area

Minimum Sizes of Zones and Areas

Zone or Area	Minimum Size and Details
Infected Zone (IZ)	Perimeter should be at least 3 km (~1.86 miles) beyond perimeters of presumptive or confirmed Infected Premises. Will depend on disease agent and epidemiological circumstances. This zone may be redefined as the outbreak continues.
Buffer Zone (BZ)	Perimeter should be at least 7 km (~4.35 miles) beyond the perimeter of the Infected Zone. Width is generally not less than the minimum radius of the associated Infected Zone, but may be much larger. This zone may be redefined as the outbreak continues.
Control Area (CA)	Perimeter should be at least 10 km (~6.21 miles) beyond the perimeter of the closest Infected Premises. Please see the table to the left for factors that influence the size of the Control Area. This area may be redefined as the outbreak continues.
Surveillance Zone (SZ)	Width should be at least 10 km (~6.21 miles), but may be much larger.

Factors Used to Determine Control Area Size

Factors	Additional Details
Jurisdictional areas	• Effectiveness and efficiency of administration • Multi-jurisdictional considerations: local, State, Tribal, and multistate
Physical boundaries	• Areas defined by geography • Areas defined by distance between premises
HPAI epidemiology	• Reproductive rate • Incubation period • Ease of transmission • Infectious dose • Species susceptibility • Modes of transmission (such as, fecal-oral, droplet, aerosol, vectors) • Survivability in the environment • Ease of diagnosis (for example, no pathognomonic signs; requires diagnostic laboratory testing)
Infected Premises characteristics	• Number of contacts • Transmission pathways and transmission risk ◊ Extent of animal movement ◊ Number of animals ◊ Species of animals ◊ Age of animals ◊ Movement of traffic and personnel to and from premises (fomite spread) ◊ Biosecurity measures in place at time of outbreak
Contact Premises characteristics	• Number and types of premises • Susceptible animal populations and population density • Animal movements • Movement of traffic (fomites) and personnel to and from premises (fomite spread) • Biosecurity measures in place prior to outbreak
Environment	• Types of premises in area or region • Land use in area or region • Susceptible wildlife and population density • Wildlife as biological or mechanical vectors
Climate (for aerosol spread diseases)	• Prevailing winds • Humidity
General area, region, or agricultural sector biosecurity	• Biosecurity practices in place prior to outbreak • Biosecurity practices implemented once outbreak detected
Number of backyard or transitional premises	• Types of premises, animal movements, and network of animal and fomite movements
Continuity of business	• Continuity of business plans and processes in place or activated at beginning of outbreak (such as surveillance, negative diagnostic tests, premises biosecurity, and risk-assessments) • Permit processes, memorandums of understanding, and information management systems in place or activated at beginning of outbreak

Door to Door Interviews

Due to the absence of a mandatory farm registration requirement in Vermont, door to door inquiries may have to be made within a Control Area in order to identify premises containing susceptible poultry. If resources allow, these inquiries may be made by trained individuals who would also be equipped to sample any poultry that are present; however, in most instances, the door to door inquiries will be made by individuals who are not trained in poultry handling, use of PPE, or avian influenza diagnostic sampling. In the latter circumstance, the following categories of individuals may provide assistance to VAAFM team members:

- Employees of district health offices
- Members of the Medical Reserve Corps
- Members of the Vermont Department of Health state sampling team

- Community Emergency Response Team members
- University of Vermont Animal Science/pre-veterinary students
- Vermont Technical College students
- Town Health Officers
- Town administrative staff members
- Farm Services Agency employees
- Natural Resources Conservation Services employees
- University of Vermont Extension employees
- Tufts University veterinary students

These individuals will be responsible for determining whether a premises has susceptible poultry and questioning owners regarding unexplained morbidity or mortality. If the answer to either of these questions is yes, the interview team will forward at a minimum the following information to Incident Command:

- Owner name and contact information, including email address
- GPS coordinates of the farm or poultry pen/house
- Approximate number, species, breed(s), sex and age(s) of poultry on the premises
- Statistics associated with the morbidity/mortality event(s)

Interview teams should work in groups of two individuals, one of whom should be a person familiar with the state.

Epidemiological Investigations

One of the most important and urgent veterinary activities during an HPAI outbreak is to rapidly and diligently trace-back and trace-forward movements from an Infected Premises. This tracing will aid in the control of the spread of HPAI virus and limit the impact of the outbreak, including susceptible poultry and livestock, non-susceptible species, animal products, vehicles, crops and grains, and people. Tracing also includes consideration of all potential modes of transmission and possible contact with wild birds.

In an HPAI outbreak, the goals are to identify all impacted premises (Infected Premises and Contact Premises) through tracing activities, characterize the nature of the HPAI outbreak, identify the risk factors for transmission, assign a priority of investigation, and develop mitigation strategies. These measures will aid in the control of avian influenza and lessen the impact during the response effort. This plan will utilize the epidemiological trace-back template from the Secure Egg Supply Plan. This template may be modified to fit the context of the outbreak and ensure that essential information is consistently collected. Trace-back and trace-forward information should be collected for at least 21 days before the appearance of clinical sign in poultry affected with avian influenza. Additional tracing information is collected for the movements up to the time that the quarantine was imposed.

Diagnostic Sampling

Diagnostic sampling will occur on Contact Premises and on all premises containing poultry with clinical signs consistent with avian influenza. Diagnostic sampling may also occur in order to prove disease

freedom on premises that contain only clinically normal susceptible poultry. Unified Command will establish SOPs for diagnostic sampling surveillance and assign a priority to each premises. Unified Command will utilize existing resources such as the HPAI SOP 3-Surveillance and Appendix E of the Red Book to formulate SOPs.

Movement Permitting

It is unlikely that Vermont will have adequate resources to permit the movement of all vehicles, animals/animal products, and unrelated products within Control Area(s). As a result, movement permits will be issued by Incident Command in a risk-based manner. Movements within a Control Area to or from premises with poultry will only be allowed with a permit, regardless of the actual product that is being moved. Movements of other vehicles and products going to or from premises with no poultry within the Control Area(s) will likely be allowed to move without permits but individuals responsible for those movements will be encouraged to avoid traveling in close proximity to Infected Premises. Movements that occur completely outside of the Control Area(s) will be allowed without permitting.

Incident Command may issue "blanket permits" for some movements such as for feed mills and dairy co-ops that have constant need for daily movements, but the majority of movement permits will be issued for movement of a particular product on a single day to the same destination from the same farm of origin. Farm service companies are encouraged to regulate themselves to avoid Control Area(s) in their daily movements and to transact business in "clean areas" first, disinfect their vehicles, and then travel to Control Area(s) at the end of their routes.

Each individual premises in need of a permit must meet criteria determined by Incident Command, which at a minimum will include a completed a biosecurity plan, an epidemiologic assessment, diagnostic test results that confirm freedom from disease if applicable, and a federal premises identification number. The Tactical Epi Group, housed within the Operations Section of the Incident Command Structure, will review submitted information when there is requested movement from a poultry owner. Requests for permits to move manure off of premises in the Control Area must also be reviewed by subject matter experts at the Agency of Natural Resources' Department of Environmental Conservation; requests for permits to move processed poultry or poultry products off of premises in the Control Area must be reviewed by Agency of Agriculture Meat Inspection Program personnel; requests for permits to move live poultry off of premises in the Control Area must be reviewed by Agency of Agriculture Animal Health personnel. The contact number that producers and businesses may utilize to request movement permits will be determined concurrently with Plan activation. Requests for permits must include the following information:

1) Consignor contact information, including name, physical address, mailing address, contact email, phone number(s)
2) Federal premises ID for premises of origin
3) Full description of poultry, poultry products, and/or other products being moved
4) Consignee contact information, including name, physical address, mailing address, contact email, phone number(s)

Information must be received in a timely enough manner that Incident Command can review and, if approved, issue a movement permit 24 hours prior to the time that the movement occurs. In all instances when poultry and poultry products are permitted to move out of a Control Area, Incident

Command must also communicate directly with the State Veterinarian in the state of destination in order to obtain his/her approval for the requested movement. Movement permits will be maintained in an electronic form in the EMRS database maintained by USDA APHIS VS. Personnel who are processing movement permits in EMRS must be preapproved to utilize this federal system, but E-Authentication is not required prior to use of EMRS. The NAHEMS Guidelines on Quarantine and Movement Control should be utilized for decision-making related to permitting.

It may be necessary to clean and disinfect poultry-related conveyances moving into, out of and within a Control Area. The Vermont Hazmat Team may be able to provide assistance with this process and has committed to providing oversight of the clean/dirty line(s) within the Control Area(s). Hazmat Team responders will utilize in-state resources and equipment such as the 20 portable decontamination trailers and may request personnel and equipment support from out of state resources such as the National Veterinary Stockpile. The Vermont Agency of Transportation may be utilized by Incident Command to approve exemptions for roadway weight limits.

Case Management on Infected Premises

Support organizations: Vermont State Police and local law enforcement organizations for quarantine enforcement; University Veterinarian employed by the University of Vermont to provide veterinary-specific assistance with depopulation; USDA-APHIS Veterinary Services to provide training on euthanasia techniques; Vermont Agency of Transportation, Vermont Fire Services, Vermont Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security, Vermont National Guard for procurement of water and other depopulation resources; Vermont Hazmat Team, Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, Vermont Department of Health, Vermont Department of Buildings and General Services, Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife, USDA APHIS Wildlife Services, Natural Resources and Conservation Services for consultation on, assistance with, and identification of resources for depopulation, carcass disposal, and cleaning & disinfection; Vermont Agency of Transportation for issuance of exemptions to roadway weight limits

Activities undertaken by Incident Command on Infected Premises are intended to prevent disease spread from the premises; indemnify the producer in accordance with federal policy; remove the source of infection by safely and efficiently depopulating and disposing of all susceptible poultry and related poultry products; and cleaning and disinfecting the premises prior to restocking.

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Quarantine Establishment

Incident Command will immediately issue a quarantine order on all Infected Premises (refer to Appendix 10 for sample quarantine order). An initial verbal issuance has the full force of the law behind it but must be followed by a formal written quarantine order that is sent to the address of record via regular and certified mail, delivered by a sheriff, or hand delivered by a member of the IC directly to the person responsible for the poultry on the premises. The owners of all quarantined premises have a right to a hearing under Vermont law, but the quarantine(s) remain in effect while the proceedings are ongoing. Vermont State Police will collaborate with local law enforcement personnel to provide quarantine enforcement support to Incident Command and will assist with site security for Infected Premises as requested by Incident Command.

Movement off of Infected Premises

Movements of live poultry off of Infected Premises are prohibited. Raw or processed poultry food products originating from Infected Premises will be evaluated on a case by case basis prior to entering the food supply. Demonstrating the ability to adhere to adequate biosecurity practices, including adherence to an appropriate line of separation, may increase the chance of release of any product that was completely processed prior to one – two incubation periods of the currently circulating virus. The case manager(s) for infected properties will play a large role in evaluating movements of non-poultry-related items on and off infected premises on a case by case basis.

Process Flow, Case Management and Flock Plan Development

Refer to Appendix 11 for a sample Case Management Guidance Checklist. At the latest, once a property is classified as an Infected Premises, a flock inventory and appraisal must be completed in order to qualify the poultry owner for federal indemnity, if funds are available for such purposes. Incident Command's determination of when within the diagnostic testing cascade a flock inventory/appraisal may be completed may change as the outbreak evolves to allow for presumptive positive premises to undergo flock appraisals. It is in the poultry owner's best interest to have the flock appraisal completed as soon as possible since federal indemnification is based on the live bird inventory. The flock appraisal, flock plan and indemnity paperwork must be completed by a team consisting of at least two individuals, at least one of whom must be a subject matter expert, such as a VAAFM Animal Health Specialist, federal Animal Health Technician, or a federal Veterinary Medical Officer. Both members of the team must be fit tested and utilize full personal protective equipment. While on site, the team must obtain at a minimum the following information:

- Owner(s) of birds, buildings, land
- Clean/dirty line demarcation
- Availability of personnel/equipment supplies for depopulation, carcass disposal and cleaning/disinfection
- Size/number/type of birds on premises
- Size/number/type of buildings on premises
- Depth and type of litter
- Description/location of potential on-farm composting/burial sites

- Presence of other pertinent items (eggs, excess feed, clean shavings)

All Infected or Presumptive Positive premises should be assigned a Case Manager, who will act as a point of contact within the Incident Command for the poultry owner. As much of the communication between the poultry owner and the Incident Command as possible should go through the Case Manager. Following the completion of the flock appraisal, a Flock Plan must be developed and signed by Incident Command and the poultry owner in order for the poultry owner to qualify for indemnity funding. Commercial and backyard Flock Plan templates exist (Appendices 12 & 13) and should be utilized when possible for consistency. Once a signed Flock Plan is in place, the poultry owner and Incident Command will work cooperatively to complete depopulation, carcass disposal, cleaning and disinfection, and repopulation in accordance with the Plan and state and federal regulations. If the Case Manager is fit tested and trained in the appropriate use of Personal Protective Equipment, and is willing, that individual should be present for these activities as they occur on the premises. Based on previous outbreaks, poultry owners may experience waiting periods of up to 6 months from the time of the confirmed positive diagnosis to the time that repopulation is possible.

Mass Depopulation/Euthanasia

General Information

Mass depopulation and euthanasia are not synonymous. Euthanasia involves transitioning an animal to death as painlessly and stress-free as possible. Mass depopulation is a method by which large numbers of animals must be destroyed quickly and efficiently with as much consideration given to the welfare of animals as practicable, given extenuating circumstances. Mass depopulation is employed in an HPAI response to prevent or mitigate the spread of HPAI through elimination of infected or potentially infected animals. Best practice guidance issued in 2007 from the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) states that "Under unusual conditions, such as disease eradication and natural disasters, euthanasia options may be limited. In these situations, the most appropriate technique that minimizes human and animal health concerns must be used." Qualified personnel should perform mass depopulation in the event of an HPAI outbreak using the safest, quickest, and most humane procedure in accordance with AVMA guidance.

Poultry on an Infected Premises will be depopulated or euthanized as soon as possible after declaration of a confirmed positive laboratory diagnosis, ideally within 24 hours in order to lessen the potential for disease spread. In most instances, poultry housed in multiple barns on the same physical premises will be considered a single flock and will be subject to depopulation, even if only poultry from a single barn have been confirmed positive. Poultry on Contact Premises may also be depopulated as soon as possible after the premises are classified as such. The NAHEMS Mass Depopulation and Euthanasia SOP provides instructions for response personnel following the declaration of an HPAI outbreak and the classification of Infected Premises and Contact Premises. This SOP offers HPAI-specific information on mass depopulation and euthanasia for poultry, including evaluation of various euthanasia methods, such as carbon dioxide or other gas, water-based foam concentrate, and other approved methods.

The Vermont Hazmat Team will complete or assist with poultry depopulation during an avian influenza outbreak and will coordinate with in-state fire response personnel and the Agency of Transportation to obtain necessary equipment and resources such as adequate volumes of water. The Team may also receive support from out of state equipment and personnel providers such as 3-D contractors from the

National Veterinary Stockpile. The University of Vermont's University Veterinarian will be included in the depopulation team in order to confirm death of the bird(s), euthanize birds not depopulated by foam if that modality is utilized, and to ensure that all processes conform with AVMA welfare guidelines.

Depopulation of Small Flocks

Smaller flocks of backyard birds may be euthanized using CO2 canisters and enclosures, backpack foaming units or other methods as approved by the AVMA. There are 30 CO2 carts located in PA which are available for use in Vermont and can be obtained through the National Veterinary Stockpile. These carts are shipped with empty CO2 containers so arrangements would have to be made in-state to be able to utilize them for euthanasia/depopulation activities. The VAAFM Animal Health section maintains homemade C02 chambers that could be used for the euthanasia of small numbers of birds. Containment of small numbers of birds for euthanasia may be necessary, and the following crates may be purchased and utilized:
http://www.lcsupply.com/LCS-Plastic-Cages-Pheasant-_Duck/productinfo/PDTC/
http://www.lcsupply.com/LCS-Plastic-Crate-Quail/productinfo/QTC/
http://www.farmtek.com/farm/supplies/cat1;ft_poultry_equipment;ft_poultry_coops_cages.html
CO2 canisters may be rented for use during euthanasia from Airgas, located in Barre Vermont.

Koechner Euthanizing Devices (KEDs) are located in New England, and District USDA Veterinary Medical Officers can provide training in their use. Due to the physical demands associated with their use, the efficient use of KEDs requires teams of two responders; each team member utilizes them for 20-30 birds and then swaps with his/her partner. KEDs come in two sizes and may be used for clean-up of infected dying flocks.

Depopulation of Larger Flocks

Poultry located in tiered layer houses may be depopulated by CO2 gas application, but expertise utilizing C02 for depopulation on a large scale does not exist in Vermont. It is expected that large flocks of floor-raised turkeys and other poultry will be depopulated by foam application with Kifco Avi-Guard Depopulation Equipment. This equipment does not reside in Vermont and would likely have to be procured from the National Veterinary Stockpile. Personnel trained to use this equipment will be responsible for the foam application and could include 3D contractors procured from the National Veterinary Stockpile overseen by local Hazmat or fire response personnel. If 3D contractors are not available, Vermont Hazmat may coordinate directly with Fire Services to complete the foam depopulation process.

Due to the fact that foam depopulation processes may pose environmental concerns as a result of run-off, the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources should be consulted any time that foam depopulation is being considered. Significant volumes of water are necessary in order to utilize foam depopulation; anywhere from 10,000 to 30,000 gallons of water are needed to depopulate 30,000 floor-raised turkeys. It is expected that the Hazmat Team will obtain water from local fire departments or from the Vermont National Guard in extreme circumstances and when an emergency declaration has been made by the Governor. The Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security, through the State Emergency Operations Center, may assist Incident Command with water procurement and transport. They maintain a fresh water hauler contact list that is updated annually in the winter or spring. Jason Gosselin is the point of contact for this; the following was last updated April 2015:

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Name	Phone #	Website	Capacity	Water Source	Potable	Min Qty	Location	Delivery Area
Fresh Water Hauler	802-658-2223 Primary	www.freshwaterhaulers.com	4600 gal	Champlain Water District	Yes	Negotiable	Shelburne and Underhill	Chittenden cnty, lamoille cnty, Middlebury area, Northeast Kingdom
	802-355-4321 Emergency							
P and P Water Supply	1-800-281-4100	www.pandpseptic.com	4500 gal	Champlain Water District	Yes	Negotiable	Williston	Addison cty, Chittenden cty, Franklin cty, Grand Isle cty, Lamoille cty
Pristine Mountain Springs	802-746-8186		8000 gal	Colton Springs Water Supply	Yes	750 gal	Stockbridge	All of VT
(Ron Colton)								
A-1 Water Delivery	802-355-4892 Primary		4250 gal	Purchase from Municipality	Yes	Negotiable	Georgia	Canadian Border to Middlebury & across to Hardwick
(Gary Wright)	802-524-9361 Alternate							

Additionally, the Vermont National Guard has several water buffalos that could be accessed if needed, the Vermont Agency of Transportation has several tanker trucks that might be able to be utilized, and instate swimming pool companies may have access to large volumes of water.

Carcass disposal

General Information

Recommendations found in the Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Standard Operating Procedures - Disposal should be followed when possible for disposal processes in Vermont. Employees at the Department of Environmental Conservation's Waste Management and Prevention Division and the VAAFM Agricultural Resource Management Division will play a role in Incident Command to ensure that carcass disposal activities are being completed in accordance with applicable state laws, regulations and policies and to help identify situations when it may be allowable to make exceptions to existing standards. Additional decision makers will include Vermont Hazmat Team members and Environmental Health personnel with the Vermont Department of Health. The Vermont Department of Buildings and General Services will provide contracting support for the use of haulers in the event that carcasses or poultry products must be moved off-site for disposal. Based on Vermont's topography, existing resources, and regulatory framework, the methods of carcass disposal in order of general suitability are:

1) on-site composting,
2) on-site burial,
3) off-site composting,
4) landfill
5) incineration

Depending on the context of the outbreak and number/type of premises involved, the preference associated with the above options may change. Solid waste certified compost facilities and solid waste haulers licensed by the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources should be utilized for disposal activities when possible. Advance communication with these private business owners is required in order to determine their amenability to accepting and/or hauling carcasses from Infected Premises. The list of composting facility licensees and waste transporter licensees is updated quarterly by the Agency. The State of Vermont, through the Department of Buildings and General Services, currently contracts with two companies that handle hazardous materials hauling, which might be useful during an AI response to haul carcasses and associated products off-site for composting, landfill disposal or for incineration. The contracted companies are:

- Tradebe Environmental Services

State Contract #28338
David Holmgreen
219-354-2435
northeastcontractsgroup@tradebe.com

- TMC Environmental
  State Contract #28293
  Angie Coe
  802-863-5300
  acoe@tmcenvironmental.com

The University of Vermont uses Stericycle to haul animal carcasses away for incineration, which could be another option for infected carcass transport during an AI response. Advance communication with these private business owners is required in order to determine their amenability to accepting and/or hauling carcasses from Infected Premises.

Composting/Burial

Composting/burial of poultry carcasses and products on generating farms is exempt from the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources' regulations but should be practiced in accordance with the best management recommendations provided by that agency. This activity is normally regulated by the VAAFM Agricultural Resource Management Division. The VAAFM Composting Subject Matter Expert (SME) will supervise all composting activities on infected properties and will rely on the information contained within the most recent version of the Mortality Composting Protocol for Avian Influenza Infected Flocks for specific guidance and related planning/documentation tools. The SME also maintains resource lists for carbon materials utilized during composting. Agency of Natural Resources and additional VAAFM subject matter experts will be consulted when planning for these processes, and personnel from the Natural Resources Conservation Service should also be consulted for their expertise on this subject. When composting, temperatures and times must be recorded by the owner and approved by Incident Command.

USDA APHIS VS has historically required a 28 day composting period for the purpose of heat inactivating the AI virus. Historically, some impacted commercial poultry farms have chosen to undergo a 14 day compost period inside the poultry facility and then move the pile outside to a suitable location on the property for the second 14 day period in order to reduce the time interval to restocking. The Vermont Agency of Natural Resources recommends that even if the composter keeps adequate records of the timeline, temperatures and turnings and can demonstrate that the piles are maintained 131+ degrees for a long enough period of time to destroy the AI virus, an additional composting period of at least 30 days may be necessary in order to allow for adequate carcass composting. Once the carcasses are fully composted, the resulting material would be able to be utilized for any suitable agronomic purpose.

Subject matter experts within the Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife must be consulted for any composting activities completed outside in order to mitigate wild bird/scavenger exposure to the pile and associated inadvertent disease spread. The Department may consult with the United States Department of Agriculture, Wildlife Services in order to provide recommendations to Incident

Command. Producers are encouraged to review the following quick-reference best management practice documents related to poultry composting:

- Commercial Bird Operations
- Residential/Hobbyist Bird Operations

Landfill Disposal

Incident Command must approve and oversee all landfill disposal processes utilized to dispose of infected carcasses and related products. Vermont has only one lined landfill, the NEWSVT Landfill in Coventry, which is privately owned. Advance communication with the business owner is required to determine his/her willingness to accept carcasses, litter, and other compostables from infected premises, should that become necessary. The Vermont Agency of Transportation may be utilized to issue roadway permits for overweight loads.

Incineration

Incident Command must approve and oversee all incineration processes utilized to dispose of infected carcasses and related products. There are no commercial licensed incinerators in Vermont; the closest is located in New York. The use of portable incinerators for carcass disposal in Vermont may be considered if other options are unavailable but equipment would have to be obtained from outside the state and the process(es) would have to be permitted by the Agency of Natural Resources on a just-in-time basis.

Cleaning and Disinfection

Owners must include cleaning and disinfection activities in their Flock Plans. Cleaning and disinfection procedures will be overseen by Incident Command. EPA-approved disinfectants for avian influenza must be utilized; off-label use of disinfectants is illegal.

Because of HPAI's high survival rate on both organic and inorganic materials, aggressive cleaning and disinfection practices are required for control and eradication. Cleaning and disinfection is to be conducted as quickly as possible after the disposal of depopulated poultry. The HPAI Cleaning and Disinfection SOP provides information on optimal cleaning and disinfection methods for HPAI, processes used to inactivate HPAI from organic materials, methods for cleaning and disinfecting equipment and premises after HPAI detection, and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-approved disinfectants for HPAI. The NAHEMS Guidelines: Cleaning and Disinfection document is an excellent reference and covers some of the related environmental considerations.

Water and feeding systems, ventilation, slats, nest box material, egg packing machines, egg storage areas, floor areas, the exterior of the house, and other materials and areas must be cleaned and disinfected. Vermont Hazmat personnel may be involved with cleaning and disinfection activities, and Vermont Agency of Natural Resource personnel will consult in order to mitigate associated environmental impacts. If available personnel or materials are insufficient for cleaning and disinfection in an HPAI outbreak, the Incident Command can request emergency 3D contractor support from the National Veterinary Stockpile.

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Repopulation

Following official approval of cleaning and disinfection procedures, each Infected Premises will remain vacant for a minimum of 21 days to ensure that any residual virus has been eliminated. This period may be decreased if external heat is used to raise the temperature of the houses sufficiently to inactivate any residual virus in a shorter period. Additional requirements for restocking of previously infected premises are outlined in the USDA APHIS HPAI Red Book.

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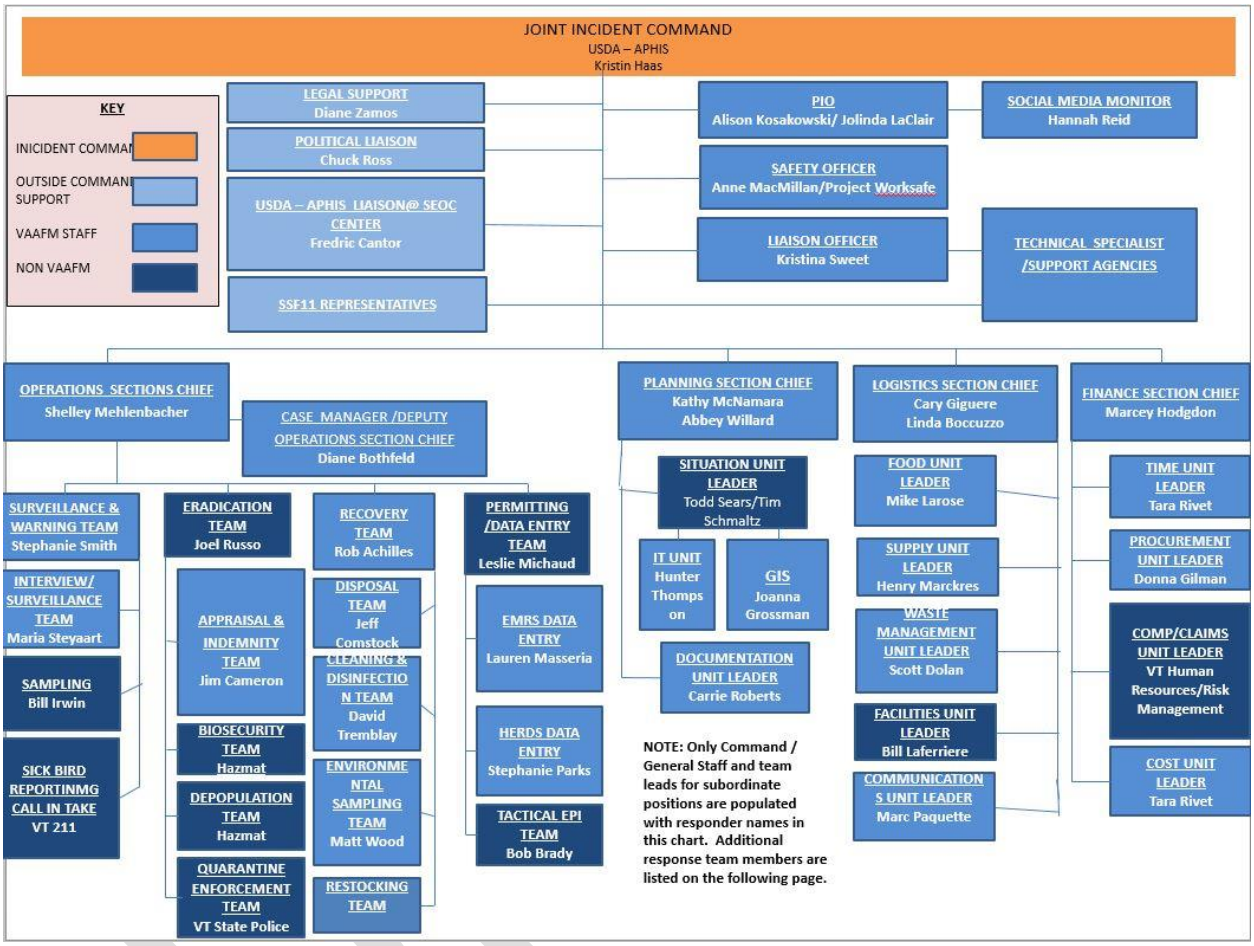
Appendix 1

VAAFM ICS Organizational Chart



Additional Response Team Members

SSF11 reps

Sylvia Jenson
Laura Dipietro
Wendy Houston-Anderson
Trevor Lewis
Chelsea Lewis
Ali Zipparo

Interview/Surveillance Team

Bill Irwin
State Sampling Team members
Candace Barber
Dwight Brunnette
Kristen Needham
John Roberts
Jon Magnant
Patti Casey
Katie Gehr

Appraisal/Indemnity Team

Jim Cameron
Darryl Kuehne
Zach Bartlett
Sue James
Greg Lockwood
Mike Mitchell
Lisa Fantelli

Depopulation Team

Hazmat
Ruth Blauwiekel
Fire Services
NVS contractors

Quarantine Enforcement Team

VT State Police
Local Law Enforcement

Disposal Team

Jeff Comstock
Ally Allen
Alex DePillis

Cleaning & Disinfection Team

David Tremblay
Bethany Creaser
Dominique Golliot

Environmental Sampling Team

Matt Wood
Steve Volk
Patti Casey

EMRS Data Entry Team

Lauren Masseria
Emma Hanson
Faith Raymond

USAHERDS Data Entry Team

Stephanie Parks
Jenn LaValley

Tactical Epi Team

Bob Brady
USDA Riverdale personnel
USDA District One personnel

IT Unit

Hunter Thompson
Jim Shover

Supply Unit Leader

Henry Marckres
Sumner Kuehne

Waste Mgt. Unit Leader

Scott Dolan
Hugh Lund

Appendix 2

Sample Delegation of Authority Document

DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY

JURISDICTION	DATE OF AUTHORIZATION	TIME OF AUTHORIZATION
NAME OF AUTHORIZING OFFICIAL	TITLE / POSITION OF AUTHORIZING OFFICIAL	
DATE / TIME AUTHORIZATION TO BE EFFECTIVE	DATE / TIME AUTHORIZATION EXPIRES	
EVENT NAME / IDENTIFICATION	POSITION TITLE TO BE CONFERRED	
LEGAL PRECEDENCE / STATUTE / CODE REFERENCE AUTHORIZING DELEGATION (*where applicable*)		
LOCATION OF EVENT / INCIDENT		
GEOGRAPHIC LIMITATIONS		
LIMITATIONS ON AUTHORITY (*if none are listed, then full authority is given*)		
SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS TO ACCOMPANY ASSIGNMENT		
NAME OF DESIGNEE	TITLE PRIOR TO DESIGNATION (*where applicable*)	
AGENCY AFFILIATION	QUALIFICATONS / REMARKS	

As the elected official or authorized person in charge of the incident named / listed above, I designate the individual listed as described below. This designation is made in accordance with regulation, law, or competent authority of my office.

The designee listed above is assigned to the position listed herein, and is authorized to perform all manner of tasks and decisions to accomplish objectives related to the event / incident described. Unless otherwise restricted in this document, full authority to perform tasks, commit resources, issue assignments, and allocate funds is specifically authorized.

All personnel assigned to the incident, who are normally subject to the control of the jurisdiction listed are instructed to comply with direction, orders, and lend assistance as deemed necessary by the individual listed within this document.

This document is the sole source of authority to be used, until such time as it expires or is revoked by competent authority.

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZING OFFICIAL	DATE AND TIME OF SIGNATURE /
WITNESS TO SIGNATURE (*where required*)	DATE AND TIME OF WITNESS SIGNATURE /

Acceptance of duty: The duty and position described herein is/are accepted for execution with the limitations listed

SIGNATURE OF DESIGNEE	DATE AND TIME OF SIGNATURE /
SIGNATURE OF WITNESS (*where required*)	DATE AND TIME OF WITNESS SIGNATURE /

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Appendix 3

Vermont Poultry Veterinarians (updated June 2013)

County	Name	Clinic	Phone
Bennington	Eugene Ceglowski	Rupert Veterinary Clinic	394-7759
Bennington	Jessica Roosevelt	Green Mountain Vet. Hospital	362-2620
Chittenden	Liam Bisson	Shelburne Veterinary Hospital	985-2525
Chittenden	Patrick Leavey	Animal Hospital of Hinesburg	425-2955
Orange	Susan Dyer	Stonecliff Animal Clinic	222-4903
Washington	Emily Bond	Seaquist Animal Hospital	888-7776
Windham	Ron Svec	VT-NH Veterinary Clinic	254-5422
Windsor	Tony Castrignano	Springfield Animal Hospital	885-2505
Greenfield NY	Jennifer Steeves	Greenfield Animal Hospital	518-893-6228
Chittenden	Elizabeth Miquel	Essex Veterinary Center	879-1399
Rutland	Scott MacLachlan	Poultney Veterinary Service	287-9292

Note: Dr. Steven Metz, a retired veterinarian with extensive knowledge of avian medicine, offered to be available to veterinarians if needed. He can be reached at 802-373-7279 or AvianSteve@gmail.com.

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Appendix 4

Vermont Avian Influenza Advisory Committee Members

David Sausville	VT Fish and Wildlife Department	david.sausville@state.vt.us
Fred Pogmore	USDA Wildlife Services	fred.e.pogmore@aphis.usda.gov
Fredric Cantor	USDA APHIS Veterinary Services	Fredric.l.cantor@aphis.usda.gov
Guy Roberts	VAAFM Laboratory Director	guy.roberts@state.vt.us
Joe Emenheiser	UVM Extension	joe.emenheiser@uvm.edu
Joel Russo	USDA APHIS Veterinary Services	joel.m.russo@aphis.usda.gov
Kristen Needham	VAAFM Microbiologist	kristen.needham@state.vt.us
Marc Roy	ANR DEC Solid Waste	marc.roy@state.vt.us
McNamara, Katherine	VAAFM Assistant State Veterinarian	Katherine.McNamara@state.vt.us
Nicole Dehne	Northeast Organic Farmers Association	nicole@nofavt.org
Patsy Kelso	DOH State Epidemiologist	patsy.kelso@state.vt.us
Paul Stone	VT commercial turkey producer	paul@stonewoodfarm.com
Peter Stone	VT commercial turkey producer	stone@stonewoodfarm.com
Rob Licht	Misty Knoll poultry slaughter rep.	litchrobbie@gmail.com
Shelley Mehlenbacher	VAAFM Assistant State Veterinarian	shelley.mehlenbacher@state.vt.us
Stacey Lussier	NPIP/Bird Fanciers Club representative	staceylussier@yahoo.com
Todd Sears	DEMHS representative	todd.sears@state.vt.us
Kristin Haas	VAAFM State Veterinarian	Kristin.haas@state.vt.us

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Appendix 5

Biosecurity Protocol for VAAFM Staff

Biosecurity Protocol for Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets Staff

Antimicrobial/disinfectant foot baths serve as an obvious and highly visible sign that biosecurity and disease prevention on the farm is taken seriously. More importantly, they help prevent disease transfer onto, around, and off farm sites. Foot baths should be placed at all main farm/site entrances, and at entrances to farm buildings to ensure that all personnel and visitors use them.

Agency of Agriculture staff performing work at farms must wear disinfected rubber boots or disposable booties (plastic or Tyvek) over street shoes when coming in contact with the farm's production area. Knee high rubber boots of various styles are acceptable. It is preferable for the boot to have shallow ridges on the sole to facilitate removal of dirt and manure.

Rubber boots must be disinfected before entering the production area of a farm and again when leaving the farm. Ask the farmer if they have specific procedures for biosecurity at their farm that they would like you to follow.

The production area is composed of those parts of the farm, traditionally known as the "homestead," that include the animal confinement area, manure storage area, raw materials storage area (includes feed bunks or other areas where feed is stored), waste containment areas, any area used in the storage, handling, treatment or disposal of mortalities, and milkhouse wash water.

The Agency recommends its staff use Virkon-S, a multipurpose disinfectant for biosecurity practice on farms. Below are instructions for disinfecting rubber boots with Virkon-S.

Antimicrobial agents including Virkon-S, used on the environment are regulated as pesticides by the

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Users should carefully follow the disinfection directions on the label to handle and safely use the pesticide product and avoid harm to human health and the environment. General information about disinfecting against avian flu in particular can be found here:

http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/factsheets/avian_flu_products.htm

Registered Antimicrobial Products with Label Claims for Avian (Bird) Flu Disinfectants

These EPA disinfectant products are registered and labeled with a claim to inactivate **Avian influenza A** viruses on hard, non-porous surfaces. The label specifies the use sites (e.g., poultry houses and farm premises) for application of the product. Although there are no antimicrobial products registered specifically against the H_5N_2 subtype of Avian Influenza A virus, EPA believes based on available scientific information that registered Avian Influenza A products will be effective against the H_5N_2 strain and other strains.

Note: The list of products is not a comprehensive list. There may be additional registered Avian Influenza A disinfectants. EPA will update this list as needed.

Registered Antimicrobial Products with Label Claims for Avian Influenza (PDF) (29 pp, 571k)

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Disinfecting Rubber Boots with Virkon-S

Supplies needed:

Virkon-S Powder or tablets (EPA Registration Number 71654-6);

MSDS Sheet - maintain in vehicle;

One gallon clean water per farm visit (if using the spray bottle method);

Long Handled Brush;

One gallon container or quart spray bottle with 1% Virkon-S solution;

Personal Protective Equipment: rubber gloves and safety glasses must be worn when preparing the

solution. Dust masks may be worn to assist in avoiding the breathing of dust when using the powder. Safety glasses are not required when working with the diluted solution;

Preparation of 1% Virkon-S solution - one gallon:

1. Fill a one gallon container halfway with warm water.
2. Wearing the appropriate PPE, fill a suitable container with warm water adding 1.3 oz. of Virkon-S powder (measuring scoop provided) into the gallon container. If using tablets, place 8 tablets into container.
3. Swirl contents of container until mixed (tablets take slightly longer to dissolve).
4. Fill container to one gallon mark with warm water.

Replace solution once it has either become soiled or after a period of 7 days. Do not allow to freeze.

How to Disinfect Rubber Boots using Bucket/Basin

1. Pour one gallon of 1% Virkon-S into bucket or basin. Dip brush into Virkon-S and scrub as much dirt/manure off boots as possible outside of basin.

2. Once most of dirt/manure is off boot, place boot in basin and continue scrubbing sides, tops and bottoms of boot with Virkon-S solution.

3-5 gallon plastic bucket or basin.

3. Repeat on other boot.

4. If concerned about non-target animals coming in contact with the solution, store basin under car or place in vehicle after cleaning the bottom of the container (See step 6 below).

5. Repeat steps 1 through 3 before departing farm.

6. Dispose of used Virkon-S solution in grassed area or away from walkways. Ask farmer if they have a preference of where the solution is disposed of.

7. Clean bucket before leaving the farm. Using brush dipped in Virkon-S prior to disposal of used solution, scrub bottom of bucket/basin to remove dirt and manure.

NOTE: If all dirt and manure have successfully been removed from the rubber boots prior to your visit to the next farm, you should only have to scrub the rubber boots with Virkon-S solution before entering the production area of the next farm.

<u>Preparation of 1% Virkon-S solution - one quart spray bottle:</u>

1. Fill a one quart spray bottle halfway with warm water.

2. Wearing the appropriate PPE, place 0.3 ounces of Virkon-S powder into the spray bottle (estimate a quarter scoop of Virkon-S) or 2 tablets.

3. Swirl contents of container until mixed.

4. Fill to one quart mark with warm water.

Solution will remain stable for 7 days. Do not allow to freeze.

<u>Procedure using spray bottle:</u>

1. Either pour clean water over boots while scrubbing with long-handled brush to remove all dirt/organic matter, or pour water into basin and scrub boot with brush.

2. When all visible material has been removed from boots, spray boot and sole with Virkon-S solution until dripping.

3. Repeat on other boot.

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4. Repeat Steps 1 through 3 before departing farm.

NOTE: If all dirt and manure have successfully been removed from the rubber boots prior to your visit to the next farm, you should only have to spray the rubber boots down with the spray solution before entering the production area of the next farm.

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Appendix 6

Vermont Sick Bird Intake Form

Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets

Poultry Disease Screening Evaluation Form

General Information

Name of Facility/Owner_____

Name of Caller, if applicable_____

Mailing Address of Facility_____

Physical Address of Facility_____

Telephone Number _____ Cell Number _____

Email_____

Date of Call/Report of Illness_____ Date of Inspection _____

Name of Veterinarian (if applicable) _____

Veterinarian phone number _____

Clinical Signs

When did you first notice illness in your flock? _____

What signs did you notice which indicated illness?_____

When did the birds start dying? _____

Are they continuing to die? _____

How many birds in flock? _____How many have died? _____

How many birds are sick? _____

Are your birds showing any of the following symptoms? Circle all that apply

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Sudden Death

Respiratory - snicking, sneezing, sinus plugs, blood from mouth or nose

Head - swollen, watery foamy eyes, blue comb

Feet and legs - swollen hocks, purple/red dots on legs

Digestive - Lack of energy and appetite, decreased feed consumption, diarrhea

Neurological - walking funny, unable to stand

Do you have contact with other people with birds and have you visited them since your birds got sick? YES/ NO_____ Do they have any sick birds? _____

Is any member of your family sick with respiratory or flu like symptoms? YES/NO

Flock Origin

List Name and address of origin if possible, and date of purchase if within 4 weeks of call

Feed Store_____

Private Sale_____

Auction/Live Bird Market_____

Exhibition or Show_____

Other _____

Premises Information

Number of birds on premise and age of birds_____

Gamebirds (pheasants, quail, partridges, peafowl)_____

Age of Gamebirds_____

Chickens_____ Age_____

Turkeys _____ Age _____

Pigeons/Doves _____ Age _____Are they racing/homing? YES/NO

Waterfowl _____ Age _____

Have you added any new birds to your flock recently? YES/NO, if yes what was the source and when did you add them?_____

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Do you have a pond or stream nearby or on your property? Yes/No

Are there wild waterfowl on these water bodies? Yes/No

Do your poultry free range and have contact with the wild waterfowl or their droppings? Yes/No

If you have domestic waterfowl;

Do you have a pond/stream on your property that is used by your waterfowl? YES/NO

Do your waterfowl stay in the same house as your other birds?_____

If not is their pen next to your other birds pen? _____

Are your birds kept for exhibition YES/NO, as a backyard laying flock YES/NO for slaughter YES/NO, if yes, where are they slaughtered_____

Other species (pigs, cows, goats, etc…) on facility_____

If pigs are kept on the property where are they in proximity to the birds?

Same house _____ separate house_____ share outside area _____

Are there any other places near you that keep animals?_____

Type? _____

Housing and Environmental Information

Name and Address of Feed Supplier_____

_____

Is feed delivered to you by feed supplier? YES/NO

Type of Feed _____

Type of Housing_____ Windows/ Windowless (circle one0

Artificial or Natural Lighting (circle one) if artificial the number of hours light/lights are on_____ and type and wattage of bulb_____

Approximate temperature inside house_____

Action Taken

Was a quarantine issued? Yes_____ No_____

if no, why not _____

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Were animals submitted for necropsy? Yes_____ No _____

If yes, please complete a necropsy submittal form and return to the office ASAP.

Other action taken:_____

_____

_____

Other comments:_____

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

Inspector Name (printed): _____

Inspector Signature: _____

Date: _____ Time of Inspection _____

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Appendix 7

USDA District One Office Contact Information

	POSITION	PHONE NUMBER
District Office		
Dr. Bill Smith	District Director	508-363-2292/508-981-1954
Charlie Singer	District Administrative Officer	609-259-5263/508-723-2619
Stacey Hitchery	District Director Assistant	508-363-2278
Doug Croft	District IT Specialist	508-363-2299
VS New England District Field Office		
Dr. Tom McKenna	Assistant Director	508-363-2280/508-887-3421
Dr. Bob Brady	Epidemiology Officer	508-363-2296
Dr. Fredric Cantor	Emergency Coordinator	508-363-2293/774-303-0823
Judi Piekarski	Program Assistant (Budget)	508-363-2276
Brett Earnest	Program Assistant (Asst. to Dr. McKenna)	508-363-2275
Liz Smith	Program Assistant (NVAP)	508-363-2298
Gail Skamarack	Program Assistant (Disease Programs)	508-363-2277

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Appendix 8

Response Supply List

Item	Potential Vendor	State Vendor/ Contract #	Brand/	Cost	Requirements/Purpose	3 Month Supply	6 Month Supply (includes the 3 month supply)
Buckets - 5 gallon	Uline			$4/bucket	Trash on farm at clean/dirty line	20	40
Cars		BGS Fleet			Motorpool or rental		
Clipboards		Staples		$2.69		40	60
CO2 canisters	Air Gas			$65 each	depopulation, used with trash cans	20	40
Cold Gel Packs		Agency storerooom/U line		$17/case of 36	8 oz. for shipping samples and keeping them cool during transit	3 cases	5 cases

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Coveralls - reusable cloth coveralls (mechanic coveralls)		Grainger		$30-50 each	multiple sizes, with short sleeves	75	75
Crates - chicken	LCS Supply			$70 each	for depopulation	6	10
Crates - turkey	Farmtek			$110	for depopulaton	6	10
Duct Tape		Staples		$187/case or 24	3M Utility Duct Tape 2929 Silver, 1.88 in x 50 yd 5.8 mils (Pack of 24); biosecurity attire	1 case	2 cases
Extra Strong Trash Bags		Grainger		$7.50/box of 50	55 Gallon , black. trash; sampling needs	3 boxes	3 boxes
Germicidal Bleach		Grainger	Clorox		121 oz., PK3		
Hand sanitizer, 2 oz gel		Staples		$3.64 each	On-farm	20	40
Hardhats - full brim, ratchet adjustment	Koch Supplies		V-Guard Safety Hard Hat	$15 each	For depopulaton responders	50	75
Ice cooling vest	Uline				heat stress - depopulation in barns	50 @$44 each	25
Lawn and garden pressure sprayer - 2		Graigner		$25	spraying off car wheels/on-farm trash/etc	25	35

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gallon							
Maps		Staples	Rand McNally	$20	for door to door folks	50	60
Marking tape		Staples					
Medical Waste Removal /dumpster					farm waste - contact medical waste removal company		
N95 Masks - particulate respirators with exhale valve	Amazon, 3M		3M, Moldex	$30/box of 10	as per VAAFM fit results	20 boxes	30
Nitrile Disposable Gloves 4 mil (thickness), 9 " length, rolled cuff, textured - 100 Count XL		Grainger		$22.43 per pack of 100 (50 pair)		3	6
Nitrile Disposable Gloves 4 mil (thickness), 9" length, rolled cuff, textured - 100 Count Large		Grainger		$22.43 per pack of 100 (50 pair)		3	6
Nitrile Disposable Gloves 4 mil (thickness), 9" length, rolled cuff, textured -		Grainger		$22.43 per pack of 100 (50 pair)		3	6

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100 Count Medium							
Nitrile Disposable Gloves 4 mil (thickness), 9.5", textured, rolled cuff-100 Count Small		Grainger		$20.81 per package of 100 (50 pair)		3	6
PAPR respirator		VOSHA		$800-$1000	needed for one of the composting experts within the Agency ; 3 other people need them if they are deployed	4	4
Pens		Staples		$2.69/box of 60		2 boxes	3 boxes
Plastic Disposable Boot Covers		Uline	Onguard brand	$15/pack of 25 pairs	Need to go up the leg and be waterproof; one size	8 packs	16 pakcs
Plastic ziploc bags - for phones and sample collection	Big lots	Grainger	Ziploc	$51.50/250	Slide seal	1 box	2 boxes
Polyethylene tarps, any color		Grainger		$11 each	5 Mil, 6' x 8' ft	20	40
Porta-potties-contract for use					one per farm depopulation		

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Pull over boots - rubber		Grainger	Tingley	$30-50 each	Tingley Men's Workbrute 10" Overshoe Rain Boot; S - XXL (5 sizes)	40	40
Rubber Maid Storage Containers with wheels	Global Industrial			$55 each	CO2 chambers for depopulation; 45 gallons	20	30
Safety Goggles - chemical Splash/impact resistant , Item # 1VT70, Condor		Grainger		$4 each	On-farm protection	40	60
Satellite phones							
Scrub Brush - long handle	Uline			$95/case of 12	20 in. Block, Plastic, Brown	4 cases of 12	2 cases of 12
Shower caddies	Big lots			$1.50/each	Carry sampling supplies on farms	30	60
Small coolers - 14 quart igloo	Amazon		Playmate	$15.99	to store bird samples when driving around	20	30
Snow fence - 4 X 100 ft roll, orange	Uline	Agency storeroom		$30/roll	restrict access on farms	12 rolls	20 rolls
Spray bottles, 24 oz, package of 3, Item # 3LFU8		Grainger		$15.55/package of 3	Disinfect suits, hands, sample bags as farms	25	50
Stainless Steel or galvanized steel bucket		Grainger	Tough guy	$18/each	4.3 gallons	40	60

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Swabs - sample birds to test for AI	Quick Medical			$25/box of 50	Polyester Tipped Applicators 25-801 D with Aluminum Shaft, 5.4", Sterile, Individually Wrapped, 50/Box	10 boxes	15 boxes
Tyvek boot covers		Grainger	DuPont	$258/package of 100 (50 pair)	S, M, L, XL 18" high	300 pair	600
Tyvek Suits with or without hoods		Uline	DuPont	$170/box of 25	M, L, XL, 2XL	8 boxes	16 boxes
Virkon S Disinfectant and Virucide - powder		Grainger	Virkon - DuPont	$71	Size 10 lb.	10	10
Virkon S Disinfectant and Virucide - tablets		Grainger	Virkon - DuPont	$20	50 tablets	20	20
Waterproof Phone Covers				$15.82	Lifeproof	$40.00	60
Water-tankers: hold 30,000 gallons approx - not purchasing contracting for their use					For water for foaming depop; 10,000-30,000 gallons of water needed to foam 10,000 birds	2	2

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PAPR respirator	$1650, includes 10 pack of hoods ($250)	Hoods can be washed and disinfected

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Appendix 9

Communications Plan – HPAI Response

VERMONT

AGENCY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD & MARKETS

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) Response Communications Plan

Last Updated: 11.4.15

Guiding Principles

In the event of a highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) outbreak in the state, the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets (VAAFM) will work closely with the Vermont departments of Health, Emergency Management & Homeland Security, Fish & Wildlife, the Agency of Transportation (VTrans), the Governor's Office, and other partner agencies to communicate with Vermonters.

Communication objectives in the event of an outbreak:

Stakeholders and Partners (farmers, poultry owners, wildlife experts, responders) will:

- Recognize the signs and symptoms of HPAI
- Know the actions to take if HPAI is detected

Vermonters, including stakeholders and partners, know and understand:

- Actions state government agencies/partners will take/are taking to respond
- First detection of HPAI likely means there will be more bird and animal cases
- HPAI detection in birds does not signal human influenza pandemic
- How to safely prepare poultry, eggs and egg products for consumption

NOTE: The Health Department will take the lead in communicating about human health issues. The Health Department will communicate specifically with health care providers, regulated food and lodging establishments, town health officers, and the public generally about human health issues.

The public, including stakeholders and partners, will understand:

- How to safely prepare poultry, eggs and egg products for consumption
- Direct contact with infected birds can cause human illness
- HPAI detection in birds does not signal human influenza pandemic

Communications Protocol

HPAI response planning is a dynamic process. While we can attempt to anticipate key scenarios, it is important to remember much of our response will depend on the specific circumstances of the event.

Most importantly, providing the public with accurate and consistent information about HPAI and the State's efforts to address it is essential to the success of the response.

The following tools may be utilized to communicate with the public.

- Social media updates (Facebook, Twitter)

- Posts to Agency/Department websites
- Email updates (utilize the following lists: vets, poultry producers, dairy list, also – emails to partner organizations such as NOFA, Rural VT, UVM and request that they forward)
- Press releases
- Press briefings (in person or via conference call. Can occur daily if needed. Assess need on on-going basis)

The Public Information Officer (PIO) from VAAFM will direct external communications in coordination with state government communicators from the departments of Emergency Management and Homeland Security, Health, Fish and Wildlife, and the agencies of Natural Resources, Human Services, VTrans, and the Governor's Office.

The coordinating structure to be used will be the Joint Information Center (JIC) located at the State Emergency Operations Center in Waterbury, Vermont – OR a Joint Information System (JIS) with communicators located in their own offices – OR a combination of the two.

This decision will be made jointly by the PIOs from VAAFM and Emergency Management and Homeland Security, depending on circumstances at the time, and may change over the duration of the event.

When possible, all media statements and press releases should be reviewed by a state veterinarian prior to distribution to ensure technical accuracy.

The PIO will use the following guidelines for media communication:

- Give all media equal access to information.
- Conduct press briefings and interviews when appropriate. (Assess daily. Is there a need for a daily briefing? Conference call?)
- Try to observe media deadlines (ask what the deadline is when inquiry is received)
- The Communications contacts in the Governor's office, ANR, VDH, and DEM will be notified of all information prior to public release

Communications Activities

Communications activities can be broken into 3 categories

- Prevention/Awareness
    - What: On-going efforts to educate the public and build awareness, prior to the first detection
    - Completed activities to date include…
        - Interviews with VPR, WDEV, WCAX, local newspapers
        - New VAAFM HPAI informational web page
        - Agriview articles
        - Stakeholder meetings (dairy, feed dealers, partners, etc)
        - E-newsletter article
        - Statewide Front Porch Forum notice
- First Detection Communications

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- What: Notification of key stakeholders, public officials, partners, the ag community, and Vermonters-at-large
- See chart below for key activities

- Daily Outreach
  - What: daily updates for key stakeholders
  - See chart below for key activities

VAAFM HPAI Communications Activities			
Event	**Activity**	**What**	**Who**
First Detection	Email to stakeholders	Heads-up, it's here	Dr. Haas
	Press Release	pre-drafted press release sent to media list	Alison
	Press Conference	press event at EOC	Alison
	Website update	activate "dark" web page. Post daily situation report	Alison
	Social Media update	Tweet/FB post that drives to website for more info	Alison
	Front Porch Forum Post	pre-drafted notice, send to Mark B for posting	Alison works with Mark Bosma
	Phone monitoring and message capture	VAAFM staff should observe a standard protocol for answering HPAI related phone calls and capturing key details.	Admin team. Incident Commander to direct
Implementation of Permitted Movement	Email to Stakeholders	(need to draft this)	JIC
	Website Update	Post details to website. Upload daily situation report	JIC
	Distribute info packets to impacted premises	Hand-outs for staff to leave with premises owners during visits	Staff & case managers
	Social Media update	Tweet/FB post that drives to website for more info	JIC
Daily, during outbreak	Email to stakeholders	brief summary of activity, link to website and daily activity report	Incident Commander
	Website Update	Post details to website. Upload daily situation report	JIC
	Map Updates	GIS updates that display impacted regions	JIC
	Social Media update	Tweet/FB post that drives to website for more info	JIC
	Phone monitoring and message capture	VAAFM staff should observe a standard protocol for answering HPAI related phone calls and capturing key details.	Permitting team lead will direct data entry staff

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Supporting Documents

Press Release Draft

Contact:
Alison Kosakowski
Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food, and Markets
Alison.Kosakowski@vermont.gov
802-272-4547

Vermont Confirms First Case of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI)

Disease Does Not Impact Human Health, But is Devastating to Poultry

Today, the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food, and Markets announced the first confirmed case of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in Vermont. Avian influenza is a virus that can infect domestic poultry such as chickens, turkeys, quail, and geese. It is not known to impact human health.

The disease was found at a [backyard flock? Poultry farm?] in [town name]. Samples from the suspected animals were tested at [lab name] in [town names] and were confirmed by the National Veterinary Services Laboratory in Ames, IA.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention considers the risk to people from these HPAI viruses to be low. To date, no human HPAI infections have been detected in the United States. Avian influenza is not a food safety concern and no poultry or poultry products infected with HPAI will enter the commercial food chain.

"It's important for Vermonters to remember that HPAI is not known to impact human health," said Vermont's Health Commissioner, Harry Chen. "Vermonters who purchase eggs, chicken, or turkey at the grocery store will not contract HPAI from ingesting these foods."
"We have been preparing for the arrival of HPAI for several months, and are activating our response plan," said Vermont Secretary of Agriculture, Food, and Markets, Chuck Ross. "This disease has serious implications for Vermont's poultry industry and agricultural economy. That's why we are counting on poultry owners, and the community-at-large, to cooperate with our response team."

"It's critical that poultry owners take steps to protect their flocks. If they notice signs in their birds that could be consistent with HPAI, they should contact the Agency of Agriculture at [phone number]," said Dr. Kristin Haas, Vermont's State Veterinarian.

Sigs of HPAI in poultry include

- Nasal discharge
- Difficulty breathing
- Lethargy
- Discolored wattles or combs
- Drop in egg production
- Sudden death

If you observe these signs in your birds, contact the State Veterinarian at [phone #] immediately.

The Vermont Agency of Agriculture urges poultry owners to take the following preventative measures to protect their flocks

- Obtain a federal premises identification number by calling the State Veterinarian's Office at (802) 828-2421. A unique farm identifier will aid regulatory officials in providing information to owners pre-outbreak and assisting owners with disease control and business continuity during a disease response.
- Keep poultry away from wild birds, particularly waterfowl and shorebirds, and remove wild bird attractants from poultry housing areas.

- If poultry are housed indoors, don't let wild birds (or their fecal material) into barns.
- Clean and disinfect all equipment prior to entry into a barn or poultry housing area.
- Use barn-specific boots and coveralls, and consider using boot baths/washes.
- Do not bring the disease home with you – if you are exposed to other poultry or wild birds, be sure to adhere to biosecurity protocols for cleaning and disinfection.

For more information about HPAI, including daily updates on Vermont's response, visit [link to dark web page]

Producers intending to move or receive poultry products and in towns A, B, C, and D, as well as businesses whose normal operations require movement of vehicles and personnel between farms with poultry may be required to have a permit for movement. Potentially affected parties should contact the VT Agency of Agriculture to obtain these permits as a preventative measure.

Vermont is the [#] state to report a case of HPAI since December 2014. In the other 20 states, the virus has been found in captive wild birds or free-ranging birds, backyard flocks, and commercial flocks. Michigan also becomes the 6th state to detect in wild or free-ranging birds only. To date, there are 226 detections of HPAI across the country (affecting approximately 50 million birds), with Iowa and Minnesota experiencing the most cases.

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About the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food, and Markets: VAAFM facilitates, supports and encourages the growth and viability of agriculture in Vermont while protecting the working landscape, human health, animal health, plant health, consumers and the environment. www.Agriculture.Vermont.Gov

If you would like to be removed from our distribution list, please reply with "unsubscribe" in the subject line. Thank you.

Press Conference

When first detection occurs, Ag Secretary Chuck Ross, Health Commissioner Harry Chen, and Secretary of Natural Resources, Deb Markowitz, will convene a press conference at the Emergency Operations Center.

The media will be notified via a media alert, sent by Alison Kosakowski, to the press list. These activities will be closely coordinated with Scott Coriell (Gov's office), Mark Bosma (DEM), Nancy Erickson (VDH) and Susan Warner (ANR).

Key messages for the public

- This detection does not signal the start of a human flu pandemic.
- There is no evidence that this virus is spread easily from person to person.
- We are responding quickly and decisively to eradicate the virus.
- We have activated our response plan and a response team is on the scene or on the way.
- We will establish a quarantine to limit movement in the area.
- The birds will be humanely euthanized.
- The area will be disinfected and will not re-open until tests show the area is free of the
- virus
- We have increased monitoring in the region to ensure quick detection if there are
- additional outbreaks

- Properly prepared eggs and poultry are safe to eat.
- Keep your hands, utensils, and surfaces clean.
- Cooking poultry to 165 degrees kills this virus and other germs.
- Food regulations and standards ensure that commercial poultry and egg products are safe

Key messages for Producers

- Protect your flocks and be vigilant in reporting signs of illness.
- Enhance biosecurity practices to prevent spread of the virus.
- Permit only essential workers and vehicles to enter the farm to limit the chances of bringing the virus from an outside source.
- Avoid visiting other poultry farms.
- Disinfect shoes, clothes, hands, egg trays or flats, crates, vehicles and tires—all of which can carry the virus.
- Protect your flocks from contact with wild birds.
- Know the signs of avian flu.
    - Signs include respiratory problems, such as coughing and sneezing, watery diarrhea, swelling around the head, neck, and eyes, loss of appetite.
- Report sick birds by calling 802-828-2421
- USDA compensates owners for domesticated birds/livestock destroyed as part of the eradication effort. Therefore, it is important to contact the Agency of Agriculture immediately if you suspect your flock is impacted. Birds that perish from the disease, rather than as a result of eradication, will not be counted towards compensation
- Visit www.Agriculture.Vermont.Gov for more information, and daily updates

Sample Social Media Posts

All social media posts should be tagged with #VTHPAI

Twitter: Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza has been detected in #VT. Does not impact people, but devastating to poultry. Visit http://agriculture.vermont.gov/animal_health/avian_influenza_preparedness #VTHPAI

(125 Characters + shortened link)

Facebook: If you keep poultry, your birds are at risk. Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) does not impact humans, but is devastating for poultry, and has been detected in Vermont. Visit http://agriculture.vermont.gov/animal_health/avian_influenza_preparedness #VTHPAI

Daily update

Twitter: Visit our website for daily updates about Avian Influenza http://agriculture.vermont.gov/animal_health/avian_influenza_preparedness #VTHPAI

(74 Characters + shortened link)

Facebook: We are updating our website daily with information about the impact of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in our state. Remember, it does not impact humans, but can be devastating for poultry

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and the farmers that raise them for a living. For more info, visit
http://agriculture.vermont.gov/animal_health/avian_influenza_preparedness #VTHPAI

Front Porch Forum Notice

(After first detection, send to Mark Bosma, VEM, for posting statewide on Front Porch Forum)

Do you keep Poultry? Important Information from the VT Agency of Agriculture
Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) has now been detected in Vermont. This disease is not known to impact humans, but can be devastating for poultry and the farmers that raise them for a living.

If you keep poultry, visit http://agriculture.vermont.gov/animal_health/avian_influenza_preparedness to learn how you can protect your flock. Prevention is key to stopping the spread of HPAI.
Signs of HPAI in poultry include respiratory problems, such as coughing and sneezing, watery diarrhea, swelling around the head, neck, and eyes, loss of appetite. Report sick birds immediately by calling 802-828-2421.

Daily Situation Report

This chart will be updated daily and uploaded to the VAAFM website
A link to this chart can be sent in the daily stakeholder update

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Daily Situation Report: Date			
County	Impacted Premises	Total Number of Birds Impacted	Type of Poultry
Addison County			
Bennington County			
Caledonia County			
Chittenden County			
Essex County			
Franklin County			
Grand Isle County			
Lamoille County			
Orange County			
Orleans County			
Rutland County			
Washington County			
Windham County			
Windsor County			
	Total:	Total:	

Daily Email to Stakeholders

A distribution list of key stakeholders will be sent daily updates with critical information from the JIC. The email will include a link to the daily situation report posted to the VAAFM web page.

It will also provide any key info about restricted movement and specific implications for the poultry and dairy industries (milk truck movement.

Key stakeholders who will receive this list include…

- State partners – ACCD, VTrans, DEM, ANR (DEC & FW), Gov's office
- Diane's dairy list
- VACD
- NOFA
- Intervale

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- Land Trust
- VHCB
- FSA/NRCS/Rural Development Lenders (VEDA, Farm Credit)
- Farm to Plate/VSJF
- Vets
- Congressional delegation (Tom Berry, Jenny Nelson, Ryan McClaren)
- Senate & House Ag Committees
- Town clerks (Stephanie Smith's list)
- Avian Influenza Advisory Committee Members
- New England State Animal Health Officials

Key Contacts – State Partners

AGR

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Deputy Secretary, Agency of Ag
802-498-3337
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Dr. Shelley Mehlenbacher
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VTrans

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Appendix 10

Sample Quarantine Order

Month day, year

VERMONT AGENCY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND MARKETS

QUARANTINE ORDER Pursuant to 6 V.S.A. § 1157 Owner name and mailing address is hereby notified that the following described animals and animal products are under quarantine: Description of animal(s)/animal product(s) and physical location of both

The reason for the quarantine: explain reason

You may/may not allow other livestock to be brought into the same premises as the quarantined animals. The livestock may/may not be removed from the premises without written permission from the Secretary. This quarantine order takes effect immediately and shall remain in effect until lifted by the Secretary of Agriculture.

This quarantine is necessary because the above-described: check appropriate box

[] Are infected with a contagious disease;

[] Has been exposed to a contagious disease;

[] May be infected with or have been exposed to a contagious zoonotic disease;

[ ] Are suspected of having biological or chemical residues, including antibiotics, in their tissues which would cause the carcasses of the animals, if slaughtered, to be adulterated within the meaning of 6 V.S.A. Chapter 204; or

[ ] Are owned or controlled by a person who has violated any provision of this part, and the Secretary finds that a quarantine is necessary to protect the public welfare.

The Secretary will consider lifting the quarantine:

Describe conditions under which quarantine order may be lifted

In the event you wish additional information, you may contact Dr. Kristin M. Haas, State Veterinarian, Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets, 116 State Street, Montpelier, VT 05620-2901. Telephone: 802-828-2421.

You are advised that you may request a hearing on this quarantine order. Your request should be made to the Secretary of Agriculture at the above address within 15 days of receiving this quarantine order. You are further advised that a request for a hearing does not stay the quarantine order and that it remains in full force and effect.

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It is unlawful to violate the terms of this quarantine order. Any person who knowingly violates a quarantine order or who interferes with or hinders the work of the secretary or his agents shall be subject to a fine of not more than $5,000.00, imprisonment of not more than six months, or both. Any person who knowingly violates a quarantine order and causes the spread of a contagious disease beyond the quarantine premises shall be subject to a fine of not more than $15,000.00, imprisonment of not more than two years, or both. In addition, the Secretary may also seek civil penalties of up to $5000.00 per violation, up to a cumulative amount of $25,000.00 for violations of the quarantine order or any provision in Title 6, Chapter 102. See 6 V.S.A. §§ 1157, 1163, and 1164.

Dated at city, Vermont this X day of month, year.

_____

Kristin M. Haas, DVM
Vermont State Veterinarian

This quarantine notice was indicate method of delivery by individual delivering on date

Signature

_____

Position title

_____

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Appendix 11

Sample Case Manager Guidance Checklist

Case Manager: _____Premises Name: _____ Premises ID:_____

Initial Assessment ***Date completed***

- Quarantine established _____
- Infected premises mini-memo _____
- Discuss/review biosecurity with owner _____
- Infected premises epidemiology questionnaire _____
- Appraisal (VS 1-23) date _____
  - Date authorized by USDA _____
- Complete ACH Vendor Enrollment Form _____
- Authorized Signatures Form _____

Creation of Flock Plan

- Draft Flock Plan based on discussion with owner _____
- Flock Plan approved by the ACU and HPAI Ops (e-signed) _____
  - If NOT approved by ACU reviewer:
    - The draft will be returned with suggested changes and corrections.
      - Make these changes and re-submit the revised draft to ACU.
  - If approved by ACU reviewer and HPAI Ops, an approved Flock Plan will come from HPAI.IA.plans@aphis.usda.gov
- Owner approved and signed Flock Plan _____
- Flock Plan finalized _____
  - (contains all signatures; submitted to HPAI.IA.plans@aphis.usda.gov)

****ANY SUBSEQUENT CHANGES TO THE FLOCK PLAN MUST BE APPROVED BY THE OWNER, ACU, AND HPAI OPS****

Cooperative Agreements – *See Cooperative Compliance Agreements Section for more detail*

- Owner applied for Pre-Award Letter _____
- Cost Estimate Pre-Award Letter Completed _____

  If Cost Estimate is less than $3,000, can use Compliance Agreement
  If Cost Estimate is greater than $3,000, use Cooperative Agreement
- Pre-award letter sent to owner _____
- Work with producer to write Work Plan (may be similar to Flock Plan) _____
- Work with producer to write Financial Plan (may be similar to Cost Estimate) _____
- Coordinate with AS and ADODR to complete Cooperative Agreement _____

Depopulation

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- Depopulation

Start date _____ _____

- Disposal

Start date _____ _____

- Feathers, etc. removed from outside of barns _____
- Rodenticide / Insecticide treatment outside of barns _____
- Composting
  - Number of Piles _____
  - Start date (date last pile completed) _____
  - Received temperatures for first 14 days _____
  - Compost pile turning approved _____
  - Received temperatures for 28 day composting _____
  - Compost completed and released _____

Cleaning and Disinfection – *List by Barn # and Date*

- C&D walk-through inspection (before any cleaning) _____
  - Discuss materials that cannot be cleaned or disinfected _____
  - Obtain depreciated values of materials from owner _____
- Dry cleaning of barns _____
- C&D walk-through inspection (after dry clean) _____
- Wet cleaning/Washing of barns _____
- C&D final inspection (following wet cleaning, prior to disinfection) _____
- Disinfection of barns _____
- Rodenticide / Insecticide treatment inside barns _____
- Environmental sampling _____
- 21-day downtime post-disinfection of LAST BARN Start date: _____

  End date: _____

Return to Production/Re-stocking and Release of Quarantine

- Restocking approved by APHIS and State Officials _____
  - Date of restocking _____
  - Testing - day 1 _____
  - Testing - day 14 _____
- Premises-based quarantine released if/when both tests are negative _____

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Appendix 12

Flock Plan Template for Commercial Premises

Flock Plan
for HPAI Euthanasia, Disposal,
and Cleaning and Disinfection Procedures for Commercial Premises in (State)

Note: This is a general flock plan template intended to serve as a guide. It must be amended as necessary to be specific to the premises listed below.

Premises ID: (Premises identification number)

Premises State, county, and site number: (Two-letter State abbreviation, county, site number)

Premises Owner: (Name of premises owner)

Premises name and address: (Name of affected premises)
(Street address, city, State, zip)

Premises Contact Person: (Contact name)
(Phone number)
(Email address)

Poultry Owner: (Name of poultry owner)
(Name of representative, if applicable)
(Street address, city, State, Zip)

Poultry present: (Census, type, purpose, age in days)

Brief History: (Clinical signs, test results etc.)

This is a written flock management agreement developed between USDA, APHIS, Veterinary Services (VS) and the (State agency) (hereafter, "the State" or "State") with input from (poultry owner and/or premises owner). This flock will be handled in accordance with the State Initial State Response and Containment Plan (ISRCP), HPAI Response Plan Red Book for Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (hereafter, "HPAI Response Plan Red Book"), and Code of Federal Regulations (CFR).

The main tenets of this plan include

- Depopulation of all poultry on affected premises
- Composting of poultry, litter, and any other appropriate materials
- Cleaning and disinfection of the premises
- Assuring the premises is disease free
    - Downtime and environmental testing
    - Repopulation and monitoring for disease

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Primary Responsibilities

Euthanasia will be the primary responsibility of (add responsible parties and specify those who will be doing oversight). The poultry owner(s) will be eligible for indemnification. All necessary indemnity documents regarding the live poultry will be completely filled out and signed prior to euthanasia. The value of the poultry will be obtained by a VS-prepared calculator based on the fair market value of the birds.

Disposal of dead poultry, litter (poultry bedding), and other contaminated materials that result from the depopulation will be the primary responsibility of (add responsible parties) with oversight by VS and the State. These materials will be managed by on-site composting (or insert other method), with concurrence from VS, State and State DNR, followed by approved disposal, as described below.

(The poultry/premises owner) will be primarily responsible for cleaning of the equipment, contaminated barns/areas, conveyances, and other contaminated materials during the composting/C&D process. (The poultry/premises owner) will also apply the insecticide and rodenticide.

Disinfection of equipment, conveyances, and other contaminated materials associated with the depopulation will be the primary responsibility of (poultry/premises owner, depopulation crew, or contractor) and VS. The disinfectant used will be approved by VS and the State from a list that has been EPA approved for use with HPAI.

Quarantine and Enhanced Biosecurity

The standard avian influenza quarantine form was issued on (date). This document was signed by (poultry or premises owner, or representative). The quarantine states that no animals, poultry, poultry products (hatching eggs), or other contaminated materials (manure, mortalities, eggs, shells, feed, etc.) are to enter or leave the premises without a permit issued by the State and appropriate biosecurity.

Quarantine instructions include increasing biosecurity measures to minimize traffic and implementing protocols to clean and disinfect vehicles and equipment. The quarantine will not be released before

- contaminated materials are composted or otherwise disposed of;
- the farm is cleaned and disinfected according to measures outlined in the ISRCP and HPAI Response Plan Red Book;
- all flock and environmental testing in the Control Area has been completed with negative results; and
- repopulated poultry are confirmed to be free of virus.

Control Area quarantines and movement control restrictions will be maintained until at least 21 days have elapsed since the decontamination of all confirmed infected premises and negative results for all surveillance activities within the Control Area are documented by the State.

Epidemiologic Investigation

An epidemiologic investigation to assess potential pathways of initial introduction of HPAI viruses onto this operation and potential lateral transmission routes of HPAI viruses from this infected premises to non-infected premises is to be conducted by a State or Federal

veterinarian. This investigation should be initiated as soon as possible, preferably no later than one (1) week following detection.

An investigation form is provided and should serve as a guide for conducting a systematic and standardized assessment of potential pathways of initial virus movement onto the farm and potential movement of the virus off the farm. All sections of the form should be completed through direct conversation with the individual(s) most familiar with the farm's management and operations and questions are to be answered for the period of two (2) weeks prior to the detection of HPAI. Direct observation of the biosecurity or management practices asked about should be conducted, where applicable.

Completed investigations are to be forwarded to USDA APHIS, Office of the Chief Epidemiologist with a copy to the signatories of this plan.

Requests for Indemnity for Disposal, Cleaning, and Disinfection Activities

Any disposal of poultry and cleaning and disinfection of premises, conveyances, and materials for which indemnity is requested by (the premises and/or poultry owner(s)) must be performed under a separate cooperative compliance agreement between the claimant and VS. The cooperative compliance agreement or a pre-award letter for the agreement must be signed by all parties before the start of any of the activities for which indemnity is claimed. Any work performed before the cooperative compliance agreement or pre-award is signed will not be eligible for reimbursement.

Euthanasia

All flocks on the affected premises will be depopulated in a timely manner. Workers will be fit tested and medically approved before entering the farm and will don appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE). Biosecurity will be maintained using a clean area and dirty area, to be established before euthanasia and disposal start.

Poultry will be/was euthanized by (a contractor, owner - name) using (method – foam, CO_2, etc.). The depopulation crew expects to begin euthanasia on (date) **or** completed euthanasia on (date). Euthanasia will be/was/ was not conducted under the direct supervision of State or Federal (VS) personnel.

Disposal of Euthanized Poultry

The euthanized birds will be composted on site following the procedures below. (If other methods in addition to, or instead of, composting are used, specify these procedures below.)

1. **Disposal of all euthanized poultry and eggs**. These items will be composted on site by (an authorized contractor/owner) with supervision by the State and/ VS. (Insert other method if applicable.)
2. **Disposal of litter, manure, debris, and feed**. These items will be composted on site by (an authorized contractor/owner) with supervision by the State and VS. (Insert other method if applicable.)
3. **Monitoring of materials**. Composted materials will be monitored by State and/or VS personnel to ensure virus destruction and to identify when material can be turned or removed from the facility. (Include specific information describing who is monitoring compost temperatures and who will be reviewing that information to direct the compost management.)

Cleaning and Disinfection of Conveyances Following Depopulation

All vehicles and equipment used in holding, handling, or transporting, or that have been in contact with, affected poultry, poultry products, or contaminated materials will be cleaned and disinfected prior to leaving the premises. The exterior, including the undercarriage, and interior surfaces, including truck cabs, will be cleaned. The interior of the truck cabs will be washed with clean water and a disinfectant applied as authorized in 9 CFR § 71.10(a). The cleaning and disinfection of these items will be completed by (specify), with approval and oversight by State or VS personnel.

Drivers will be instructed to avoid contaminating the cab of the truck. Should exiting the vehicle become necessary, plastic boot covers will be provided along with instructions on their proper use and disposal.

Manure, litter, and other debris removed from these vehicles will be handled in a manner similar to that described above.

Preparation for Cleaning and Disinfection

Following the depopulation of poultry on the premises, the following procedures will be completed prior to cleaning and disinfection:

- Secure and remove all feathers that might blow around outside the house in which the infected or exposed poultry were held and clean any debris from around the exterior of the poultry houses.
- Apply insecticides and rodenticides immediately after the depopulation of the birds. This will be documented by State and/or VS personnel. The buildings will remain undisturbed, with the exception of required compost monitoring, for as long as possible in order to allow as much of the HPAI virus as possible to deteriorate to a non-infective state.

Destruction and Disposal of Contaminated Materials that Can't be Cleaned and Disinfected

Before cleaning and disinfection, the premises will be inspected by the poultry or premises owner and personnel from the State and/or VS to determine if there are contaminated items for which the cost of cleaning and disinfection would exceed the value of the materials or for which cleaning and disinfection would be impractical for another reason. The fair market value (used price) of these items will be determined by a State or VS appraiser with input from the owner. The destruction and disposal of these items will be conducted in accordance with VS Guidance 8603.1. Prior VS approval is required for destruction of items for which indemnity will be claimed.

When to Clean

Manure and litter will be composted within the poultry houses and must complete composting prior to any cleaning of the houses. (Remove if in-house composting is not occurring and specify when cleaning can commence.) Houses should not be cleaned out or litter moved until all potential HPAI virus that may have contaminated the manure and litter is inactivated, as determined by State and/or VS personnel and in accordance with the ISRCP and HPAI Response Plan Red Book. All compost material must remain on the infected premises for at least 30 days.

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Cleaning and Disinfection

Cleaning and disinfection will be performed on all contaminated buildings and surfaces including pump houses and service areas.

1. **Disposal of all litter, manure, debris, and feed.** These items will be composted under the direction of State and/or VS personnel and in accordance with the ISRCP and HPAI Response Plan Red Book and allowed to remain undisturbed for an amount of time approved by State and/or VS personnel. The interior of the compost piles must reach a temperature determined by the State or VS as measured at multiple sites within the compost piles. The compost piles will be turned (at the direction of the State or VS) so that un-composted areas will be moved to the interior of the pile. Once the composted piles reach the required temperature a second time, as measured at multiple sites, the composting may be completed. This process will be monitored and directed by State or VS personnel. All composted material must remain on the premises for a minimum of 30 days. Composting will be the responsibility of (insert responsible parties).

   Once composting is completed and the compost material is considered safe to move, said material can be (insert disposal method, spread on field, stored etc., and preferably be 2 miles from any other commercial poultry premises). State and/or VS personnel will oversee, monitor, and document this process. After use, equipment used to clean out manure, litter, debris, and feed will be washed, disinfected, and inspected at the site to where those materials were transported. In the case of inclement weather, the equipment may be washed, disinfected, and inspected at off-site wash stations at the discretion of the State and VS.

2. **Cleaning of the premises and equipment**. Dry cleaning (the removal of contaminated materials without the use of water) and wet cleaning (washing) processes will be sufficient to ensure that all materials and substances contaminated with HPAI virus, such as manure, dried blood, and other organic materials, are removed from all surfaces. Equipment will be disassembled as required to clean all contaminated surfaces. Special attention will be given to automatic feeders and other closed areas to ensure adequate cleaning. Houses and equipment will be inspected and documented by the State and/or VS to ensure that cleaning has removed all contaminated materials or substances and that houses and equipment are completely dry before applying disinfectant.

3. **Disinfection of premises and materials**. (Insert parties) will be responsible for disinfection. When cleaning has been completed and all surfaces are dry, all contaminated interior surfaces of the structure should be saturated with a disinfectant as approved by EPA and selected by the State and/or VS. Disinfectants will be applied as specified by the manufacturer, ensuring disinfection of all surfaces occurs, and that the disinfectant gets into cracks and crevices. Special attention will be given to automatic feeders and other closed areas to ensure adequate disinfection. Disinfection procedures will be overseen and documented by State and/or VS personnel.

Ensuring the Premises is Free of Avian Influenza

1. **Environmental Testing:** Following depopulation, cleaning and disinfection, the premises will remain free of avian species for 21 days. Quarantine and movement control restrictions in the Control Area will be maintained until at least 21 days have elapsed since the decontamination of all confirmed infected premises and negative results of surveillance activities within the Control Area determined by the State and/or

VS. During this time environmental sampling will be performed by State and/or VS personnel.

2. **Repopulation and flock monitoring:** The State and APHIS officials must concur in writing prior to any restocking activities. If restocking occurs without prior written approval of State and APHIS officials, this repopulation is at the producer's risk; APHIS will not indemnify previously affected premises that are restocked without prior written approval and subsequently become re-infected.

Birds Restocked After 21 Day Downtime

After repopulation of the premises, the repopulation flock must undergo at least three tests for avian influenza. Sampling for the tests must occur at least seven days apart. All birds sampled for testing must be at least 21 days old. The birds will be tested by collection of tracheal swabs and submission of the samples to (NAHLN lab) for PCR testing for evidence of avian influenza.

Post-Quarantine Avian Influenza Poultry Surveillance

Besides normal NPIP surveillance, all post-quarantine abnormal mortality within 180 days of quarantine release should be investigated and tested for avian influenza by State and/or VS personnel. Abnormal mortality is defined as follows: (Remove info that does not apply to this flock.)

- Commercial broiler turkeys: mortality in excess of 2 birds/1,000 per day for 2 consecutive days;
- Commercial breeder turkeys: mortality in excess of 2 birds/1,000 per day (after 21 days of age);
- Commercial layers: 4 times normal daily mortality for 2 consecutive days (0.5 per 1,000 per day for layers from 2-50 weeks and 0.75 per 1,000 per day for layers over 50 weeks) or 5 percent drop in egg production over 3 days.

Producer/Grower Representative:

Signature: _____ Date:_____

Poultry Owner Representative:

*Signature:*_____ Date:_____

VS Incident Commander or (State) Assistant Director:

*Signature:*_____ Date: _____

(State) Incident Commander or (State) State Veterinarian:

*Signature:*_____ Date: _____

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Appendix 13

Flock Plan Template for Backyard Premises

Backyard Flock Plan
for HPAI Euthanasia, Disposal,
and Cleaning and Disinfection Procedures for Backyard Premises

Note: This is a general flock plan template intended to serve as a guide. It must be amended as necessary to be specific to the premises listed below.

Premises ID: *(Premises identification number)*

Premises State, county, and site number: *(Two-letter State abbreviation, county, site number)*

Premises Owner: *(Name of premises owner)*

Premises Name and Address: *(Name of affected premises)*
(Street address, city, State, zip)

Premises Contact Person: *(Contact name)*
(Phone number)
(Email address)

Bird Owner: *(Name of bird owner)*
(Name of representative, if applicable)
(Street address, city, State, zip)

Birds Present: *(Census, type, purpose, age)*

Brief History: *(Clinical signs, test results etc.)*

This is a written flock management agreement developed between USDA APHIS Veterinary Services (VS) and the *(State agency)* (hereafter, "the State" or "State") with input from *(bird owner and/or premises owner)*. This flock will be handled in accordance with the State Initial State Response and Containment Plan (ISRCP), HPAI Response Plan Red Book for Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (hereafter, "HPAI Response Plan Red Book"), and Code of Federal Regulations (CFR).

The main tenets of this plan include

- Depopulation
- Disposal of birds, eggs, litter, and any other appropriate materials
- Cleaning and disinfection

Primary Responsibilities

- Euthanasia will be
  - the responsibility of *(specify responsible party)*, and

- carried out by *(specify who will be doing the euthanasia),* with oversight by VS and the State.

- Disposal of dead birds, litter (bedding), and other contaminated materials will be
  - the responsibility of *(specify responsible party),* and
  - carried out by *(specify who will be doing the disposal),* with oversight by VS and the State.

- Cleaning of contaminated equipment, structures, conveyances, and other contaminated areas and materials will be
  - the responsibility of *(specify responsible party),* and
  - carried out by *(specify who will be doing the cleaning)*, with oversight by VS and the State.

- Disinfection of equipment, conveyances, and other contaminated materials will be
  - the responsibility of *(specify responsible party)*, and
  - carried out by *(specify who will be doing the disinfecting),* with oversight and documentation by VS and the State. The disinfectant used will be approved by VS and the State from a list that has been EPA approved for use with HPAI.

Quarantine and Enhanced Biosecurity

The standard avian influenza quarantine form was issued on *(date).* This document was signed by *(bird or premises owner, or representative).* The quarantine states that no domesticated birds or other animals, bird products such as hatching eggs, or contaminated materials (manure, mortalities, eggs, shells, feed, etc.) are to enter or leave the premises without a permit issued by the State and appropriate biosecurity.

Quarantine instructions include increasing biosecurity measures to minimize traffic and implementing protocols to clean and disinfect vehicles and equipment. The quarantine will not be released before

- contaminated materials are appropriately cleaned, disinfected, and/or disposed of;
- the premises is cleaned and disinfected according to measures outlined in the ISRCP and HPAI Response Plan Red Book.

The premises quarantine will not be released before completion of an epidemiologic investigation with no detection of HPAI, and, if not all birds on the premises were euthanized, completion of surveillance testing with no detection of HPAI.

Epidemiologic Investigation

An epidemiologic investigation to assess potential pathways of initial introduction of HPAI viruses onto this operation and potential lateral transmission routes of HPAI viruses from this infected premises to non-infected premises is to be conducted by a State or Federal veterinarian. This investigation should be initiated as soon as possible, preferably no later than one (1) week following detection.

An investigation form is provided and should serve as a guide for conducting a systematic and standardized assessment of potential pathways of initial virus movement onto the farm and potential movement of the virus off the farm. All sections of the form should be completed through direct conversation with the individual(s) most familiar with the farm's management and

operations and questions are to be answered for the period of two (2) weeks prior to the detection of HPAI. Direct observation of the biosecurity or management practices asked about should be conducted, where applicable.

Completed investigations are to be forwarded to USDA APHIS, Office of the Chief Epidemiologist with a copy to the signatories of this plan.

Requests for Indemnity for Disposal, Cleaning, and Disinfection Activities

The bird owner(s) will be eligible for indemnification. All necessary indemnity documents regarding the live birds will be completely filled out and signed prior to euthanasia. The value of the birds will be obtained from (a) a VS-prepared calculator based on the fair market value of the birds, and/or (b) receipts.

Any disposal of birds and cleaning and disinfection of premises, conveyances, and materials for which indemnity is requested must be performed under a separate compliance agreement or cooperative compliance agreement between the claimant and VS. The agreement or a pre-award letter for the agreement must be signed by all parties before the start of any of the activities for which indemnity is claimed. Any work performed before the agreement or pre-award letter is signed will not be eligible for reimbursement.

Euthanasia

(All, or specify which subset of) domesticated birds on the premises will be euthanized in a timely manner. Workers will be fit tested and medically approved before entering the premises and will don appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE). Biosecurity will be maintained using a clean area and dirty area, to be established before euthanasia and disposal start.

Birds *will be/were* euthanized using *(specify method – foam, CO_2, etc.).* Euthanization is expected to begin euthanasia on *(date)* ***or*** Euthanasia was completed on (date). Euthanasia will be/was/was not conducted under the direct supervision of State or VS personnel.

Disposal

(Amend the text below as necessary for this premises, to clearly describe the disposal methods and procedures used.)

4. **Disposal of all euthanized birds and eggs**. These items will be *(specify disposal method(s)).*
5. **Disposal of contaminated litter, manure, debris, and feed**. These items will be *(specify disposal method(s)).*

Destruction and Disposal of Contaminated Materials that can't be Cleaned and Disinfected

Before cleaning and disinfection, the premises will be inspected by the bird or premises owner and VS to determine whether there are contaminated items for which the cost of cleaning and disinfection would exceed the value of the materials or for which cleaning and disinfection would be impractical for another reason. The fair market value (used price) of these items will be determined by a State or VS appraiser with input from the owner. The destruction and disposal of these items will be conducted in accordance with VS Guidance 8603.1. Prior VS approval is required for destruction of items for which reimbursement will be claimed.

Cleaning and Disinfection

All contaminated structures, equipment, and surfaces will be cleaned and disinfected.

4. **Cleaning**. Dry cleaning (the removal of contaminated materials without the use of water) and wet cleaning (washing) processes will be sufficient to ensure that all materials and substances contaminated with HPAI virus, such as manure, dried blood, and other organic materials, are removed from all surfaces. Equipment will be disassembled as necessary to clean all contaminated surfaces. Special attention will be given to automatic feeders and other closed areas to ensure adequate cleaning. Houses and equipment will be inspected by the State and/or VS to ensure that cleaning has removed all contaminated materials or substances and that houses and equipment are completely dry before applying disinfectant. The State and/or VS will document that this has occurred.

5. **Disinfection**. When cleaning has been completed and all surfaces are dry, all contaminated surfaces should be saturated with a disinfectant. The disinfectant will be applied as specified by the manufacturer, ensuring disinfection of all surfaces occurs, and that the disinfectant gets into cracks and crevices. Special attention will be given to automatic feeders and other closed areas to ensure adequate disinfection.

Ensuring the Premises is Free of Avian Influenza

If birds remain on the premises, any remaining birds that were in contact with birds, eggs, or materials from an infected flock, must at a minimum, be sampled via rtPCR diagnostic testing every other day for 14 days. *(If applicable, specify other surveillance testing scheme determined by the State and VS to be appropriate. See official VS Guidance for details and examples.)* The samples will be submitted to *(specify NAHLN lab)* for testing for evidence of avian influenza.

Owner/Operator:

*Signature:*_____ Date: _____

VS Incident Commander or (State) Assistant Director:

*Signature:*_____ Date: _____

(State) Incident Commander or (State) State Veterinarian:

*Signature:*_____ Date: _____

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