

Morbidity and Mortality



Signs of Avian Influenza

Poultry flocks infected with Avian Influenza (AI) may show a variety of clinical signs, ranging from appearing normal if infected with Low Pathogenicity AI, to 100% mortality if infected with High Pathogenicity AI.

Recordkeeping and Reporting

Keeping records of morbidity and mortality on the operation will assist with recognition of a possible disease event on the site. **You may be responsible for completing logs**, or you may need to provide information to individuals assisting with disease tracking.

The operation's site-specific plan should include information on the **rates that constitute elevated morbidity and mortality**.

Mortality

Dead birds should be collected daily, stored, and disposed of in a manner that **does not attract wild birds, rodents, and other animals** and **minimizes the potential for cross-contamination** from other facilities or between premises.

Procedures for **seeking, removing, disposing, and recording** mortalities should be included in the site's biosecurity plan, and **mortality removal pathways** should be drawn on the site map. In all cases, you must follow the applicable Biosecure Entry Procedures for the site.

Removal

- Seek and remove dead birds from house/barn **daily**
- Dead birds may be initially stored in a closed, leak-proof collection container within the Line of Separation (LOS), and mortalities removed from house/barn at the end of the shift

Disposal

- For off-site disposal, rendering trucks/other vehicles hauling dead animals **must NOT cross** the Perimeter Buffer Area (PBA)
 - **Containers may straddle the PBA** for access of both on-site and off-site vehicles until dead birds are taken to permanent disposal site
- Prevent rodents and other scavengers from accessing the disposal site
- Refer to the site's biosecurity plan for **special procedures for larger than expected numbers of mortalities**, as procedures may vary



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