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कृषि भवन, नई दिल्ली-110 001

**Joint Secretary**  
**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**  
**MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE**  
**Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries**  
**Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi-110 001**

**D.O.No.50-171/2005-LDTAQ**

**Dated the 25<sup>th</sup> November, 2005**

**Subject:- AVIAN INFLUENZA**

**Personal protective equipment recommended for persons attending outbreak or suspicion of outbreak of bird flu.**

Your attention is invited to the Action Plan for State Animal Husbandry Departments forwarded to you by letter dated 16<sup>th</sup> November, 2005 of Secretary (Animal Husbandry), Government of India. It has been stated at para 1. 2 that the Director of Animal Husbandry should ensure that all the Veterinary Officers and Disease Investigation Officers of the Department are equipped with the essential kits. The composition of the protective clothing kit has been detailed thereafter at pages 2 and 3 of the Action Plan.

2. The matter has been examined further at the level of the Government of India in accordance of the WHO recommendations and the suggestions of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India. Based on above, two categories of kits are recommended for direct handlers and for other than direct handlers. The details of the kit for the two categories are given below:-

**Kit for Direct Handlers**

1. Head covers
2. Goggles
3. Mask with hepa filter, N 95 standard
4. Gown
5. Hand gloves(two pairs)
6. Shoe covers of impermeable material

**Kit for other than direct handlers**

1. Head cover
2. Goggles
3. Mask with nose piece
4. Gown
5. Hand gloves (two pairs)
6. Shoe covers of impermeable material

3. The direct handlers would normally include persons who investigate a suspected outbreak and collect material for laboratory investigation and also those who would carry out culling, disposal of infected and at risk birds and disinfection of premises.
4. The kit for the direct handlers is estimated to cost more than Rs. 500, (approximately around Rs. 540) and the kit for other than direct handlers is likely to cost around Rs. 350. The mask with hepa filters are known to be available with M/s 3M India Limited, 340 Okhla Industrial Area, Phase II, New Delhi as informed by Ministry of Health & Family Welfare. Other items of the kit viz; head cover mask with nose piece, gown, hand gloves (two pairs) and shoes of impermeable material are known to be available with Sawhney Sons Manufacturing Co., 3482, Netaji Subhash Marg, Darya Ganj, New Delhi-110002.
5. The name of the above two suppliers are only suggestive. State Governments are at liberty to determine source of purchase.
6. The State Governments are advised to procure sufficient numbers of PPE as per the size of the poultry population, size of the State and other relevant factors. It is strongly advised to purchase sufficient quantities of kits immediately and train the veterinarians in their use and disposal.
7. WHO in its interim recommendations has further proposed the following points:
  - All persons who have been in close contact with the infected animals should wash their hands frequently with soap and water. Cullers and transporters should disinfect their hands after the operation.
  - Environmental clean up should be carried out in areas of culling, using the same protective measures as above.
  - All persons exposed to infected chickens or to farms under suspicion should be under close monitoring by local health authorities.
  - It is recommended that oseltamivir be readily available for the treatment of suspected H5N1 respiratory infections in cullers and farm workers involved in the mass culling.
  - They should also be vaccinated with the current WHO recommended influenza vaccine to avoid simultaneous infection by human influenza and avian influenza and to minimize the possibility of a re-assortment of the virus's genes.
  - Additional health monitoring of chicken cullers, others involved in the process and their family members should be carried out. These individuals

- should report any relevant health problems( respiratory complaints, flu-like illnesses or eye infections) to a health care facility. Persons at high risk for severe complications of influenza ( e.g. immunocompromised, over 60 years old, or with known chronic heart or lung disease) *should avoid* *marking net in infected chickens.*

Yours sincerely,

*Upma*  
25.11.05  
(Upma Chawdhry)

To:  
All State Secretaries of AH Departments

Copy for kind information to:

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