

**MOST IMMEDIATE**

No. K-50050-3/33/2018-LH  
Government of India  
Ministry of Agriculture & Farmer's Welfare  
**Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries**

Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi  
Dated the 5<sup>th</sup> September, 2018

**Subject: Preparedness of the states to prevent ingress of Avian Influenza.**

As you are aware, Avian Influenza is a highly contagious avian disease, having zoonotic potential. The disease causes huge losses in terms of mortality of birds and trade of poultry and poultry products. This Department has been issuing advisories to States/UTs from time to time on preparedness so as to prevent ingress of Avian Influenza which are available on Department's website ([www.dahd.nic.in](http://www.dahd.nic.in)) at the link 'Bird Flu'.

Avian Influenza virus thrives well in low temperatures, although the outbreaks may happen during any time of the year. Since winters are setting in, there is a likely risk of ingress of Avian Influenza in country, since it is a Transboundary animal disease (TAD). Therefore, there is an immediate need that all States/UTs should be in preparedness and keep a watch on symptoms any unusual sickness or mortality in birds (poultry as well as wild/ migratory birds) and be fully prepared to prevent disease in their States.

It is reiterated that the following measures/ precautions should be undertaken for robust surveillance against disease:-

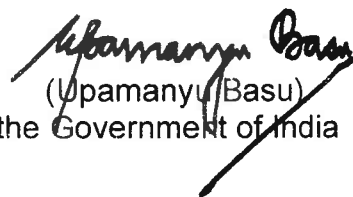
- i). The Action Plan on 'Prevention, Control and Containment of Avian Influenza' is available on the website under the link Bird Flu. The Surveillance Plan needs to be implemented meticulously. Special Surveillance is needed to be carried out especially in wet markets at the border areas, market chain on poultry supply areas with high duck population, water bodies and the nesting places of wild birds as stipulated in surveillance Plan. The Veterinary Officers should arrange to collect and send samples to designated laboratories on regular basis.
- ii) Migratory birds play an important role in transmission of Avian Influenza viruses resulting in Low as well as Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza. Hence, there is need of strengthened surveillance in areas where migratory birds are visiting. Special emphasis should be laid on sero-surveillance in poultry in such areas.
- iii) An information, education and communication (IEC) campaign in the states may please be undertaken to familiarize the risk population about Avian Influenza and the precautions that should be taken to prevent it. In case any unusual sickness and mortality is noticed, the same should be reported to authorities concerned

immediately. It should be emphasized on the poultry owners, public people involved in poultry business, wild life staff to report such unusual sickness/mortality in birds to nearest veterinary authority for taking necessary action as mentioned in Action Plan.

iv). Incidence of any unusual sickness/mortality in birds should be immediately reported to all concerned as per Action Plan which is available as mentioned.

v). States/UTs are requested to assess district level preparedness at a regular interval for tackling any eventuality, availability of required equipments, chemicals etc. There is also a need to keep the logistics (PPE/ masks/ disinfectants/ chemicals etc.) ready. The mechanisms/ procedures/suppliers for these items must be identified in advance so as to make uninterrupted supplies in emergencies.

vi). Biosecurity needs to be strengthened in all poultry establishments, Zoos, poultry markets etc.

  
(Upamanyu Basu)  
Joint Secretary to the Government of India

Distribution:

Principal Secretaries/ Secretaries of Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Services of all States/ UTs.

Copy to:

- i) Commissioners / Directors of AH of all the States / UTs.
- ii) DDG (Animal Science), ICAR, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi in respect of poultry organizations under ICAR
- ii) Joint Secretary (Wild Life) M/o Environment & Forests, CGO Complex, Lodi Road, New Delhi.
- iii) Joint Secretary (NLM), DADF, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi in respect of Central Poultry Organizations and other Poultry establishment.
- iv) NIC for putting advisory on the DADF web site, under 'Bird Flu' link.
- v) PPS to Secy (ADF)/AHC.