

BACKYARD BIOSECURITY

Prevent Poultry Diseases

Keep your distance

Be cautious of who and what has access to your flock. Consider fencing off the area where you keep your birds and limit contact with them. Allowing visitor access, specifically those with their own birds, may bring germs and diseases that can harm your flock.

Keep it clean

Keep your flock's area clean by washing their cages and changing their food and water daily. Disinfect all equipment that comes into contact with your birds and their droppings. Wear clean clothes, scrub your shoes with disinfectant and wash your hands.

Don't haul diseases home

If you have been near other birds or bird owners (such as at a feed store), clean and disinfect car tires, poultry cages and equipment before going home. Birds that have been to fairs or exhibitions should be separated from the rest of your flock for at least 2 weeks. New birds should be separated for at least 30 days.

Don't borrow diseases from neighbors

Do not share lawn and garden equipment, tools or poultry supplies with your neighbors or other bird owners. If you do bring these items home, clean and disinfect them before using them again on your property.

Know the warning signs

- Sudden increase in bird deaths in your flock
- Sneezing, gasping for air, coughing and nasal discharge
- Watery, green diarrhea
- Lack of energy
- Drop in egg production
- Soft, thin or misshapen eggs
- Swelling near the eyes, neck and head
- Purple discoloration of the wattles, combs and legs
- Tremors, drooping wings, circling, twisting of the head & neck or lack of movement

Report sick birds

If your birds are sick or dying, call your local State Veterinarian's office. To learn more about reporting sick birds, you can visit [APHIS.USDA.gov](https://www.aphis.usda.gov), [CDC.gov](https://www.cdc.gov) or call 1-800-CDC-INFO.

