

Contingency Planning for Poultry Gatherings

This document is designed as a starting guide, and organisers are encouraged to create specific and comprehensive contingency plans for their premises/event to be completed in advance of the gathering. The advice provided within this guidance complements the conditions of the general licence to arrange a poultry gathering (see the PCSB's guide: *Poultry Gatherings Guidance*). Those conditions include, but are not limited to:

- The appointment of a poultry expert, or welfare officer to examine all birds, carriers and participants before permitting entry
- Provision of disinfectant footbaths, or over-boots
- Provision of a quarantine area for birds suspected of illness
- Ensuring a local veterinary surgeon is available to attend at short notice
- Providing at least seven days' notice to APHA regarding the gathering

Below are some key points to consider when developing a contingency plan for a poultry gathering. A good contingency plan should consider all practical steps that may need to be taken in the event of suspicion or confirmation of a notifiable avian disease at (or near) the poultry gathering.

Bird(s) showing signs of illness

- Contact veterinary surgeon and request their attendance. Insert the name and contact details of the nominated vet here:

- Other birds, particularly those from the same origin as those suspected of illness should also be examined visually for signs of disease.

Bird(s) suspected to have notifiable avian disease

- Entry/pen numbers and time of identification should be recorded by the individual responsible for animal welfare at the gathering.
- Suspected bird(s) must be isolated immediately in the designated quarantine area and the owner(s) informed (if identified during pre-entry inspection, isolation should be within the vehicle of transportation). Insert the location and capacity of quarantine area at gathering here:

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- Animal Plant Health Association (APHA) must be notified immediately and a veterinary inspector requested for immediate attendance (general contact number is: 0300 0200 301). Note the local APHA office contact details below:

Stop all movement onto, or off site. No birds or participants are permitted to enter or leave the premises (including car parks) until authorised by an APHA Veterinary Inspector. Insert the gathering's Welfare Officer's details below:

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- Once APHA Veterinary Inspector is on site, organisers and all participants and attendees, must follow their instructions and adhere to requirements. APHA will also require immediate access to records of attendees held by gathering organiser.
 - Potentially contaminated waste material must be confined, disinfected and stored for safe disposal in accordance with APHA instructions. Insert note of where and how such waste will be stored below:

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- Potentially contaminated equipment will need to be cleaned and disinfected. Insert note of the [approved disinfectant](#) and quantity available on site below:

All bird(s) not suspected of disease – but are restricted in movement off site

- Non-infected birds will be held in the general (non-quarantine area); with food and water provided by the organisers whilst the inspection and/or clean-up takes place. Enter note of feed and water supply on site below:

Bird gatherings are suspended or the requirements of the licence are amended:

- You will need to contact all attendees/competitors quickly. You may need to ask them for additional information in order to permit their attendance (additional requirements of the licence) or to communicate that you are rescheduling/cancelling (temporary suspension of gatherings).

An outbreak which occurs after your event has tracing links to your gathering:

- On request from APHA, organisers will need to promptly produce records of all attendees who brought poultry or other captive birds to or away from the event. You must have recorded and retained these details for a minimum of three months following the end of the gathering, as part of the conditions of the general licence.

It is the responsibility of the gathering organiser to ensure that all conditions of the general licence are met. Further information and details about the specific requirements of the general licence is available on the relevant websites below:

England <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/bird-gatherings-licences#notify-apha>

Wales <http://gov.wales/topics/environmentcountryside/ahw/disease/avianflu/?lang=en>

Scotland www.gov.scot/avianinfluenza