

RESPONDING TO AVIAN INFLUENZA

Do you know what would happen during an avian influenza (AI) response? As a poultry or egg producer, it's important you know who does what in the event of an emergency animal disease (EAD) outbreak.

My animals are displaying unusual symptoms. What do I do?

Call your local private or government veterinarian. They will conduct investigations to confirm or rule out the presence of disease.

Alternatively, you can also call the **Emergency Animal Disease Hotline on 1800 675 888** if you've spotted something unusual. Key signs of AI include a drop in egg production, watery eyes, sinusitis, diarrhoea, discolouration of the head and legs, and mild to severe respiratory disease. Be alert for a sudden increase in unexplained deaths.

What happens when an AI outbreak is confirmed?

State/territory governments are responsible for managing outbreaks in their jurisdictions, with support from industry and other agencies. The chicken and egg industries also have trained liaison representatives who can provide industry specific insights and skills during a response.

Depending on a property's risk of exposure to the disease, the state/territory government may implement control measures on your farm. These may include movement controls, disease tracing or surveillance activities.

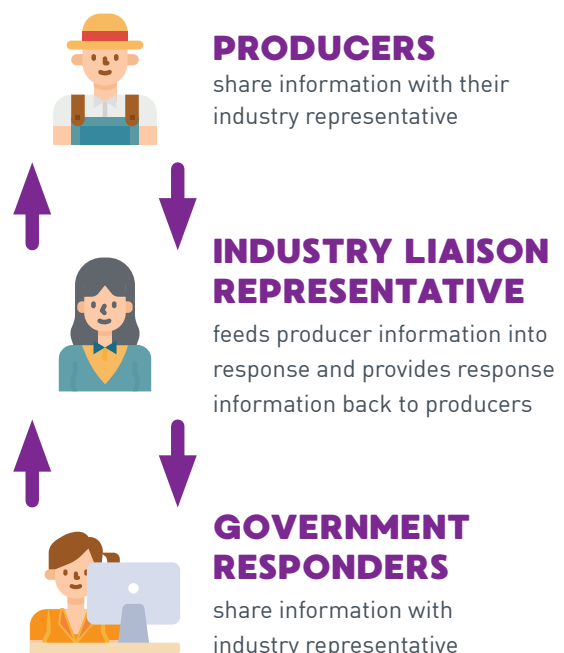
You can help states/territory governments control AI as quickly as possible by complying with their

directions. If you don't follow instructions, there may be legal ramifications. For more information about control measures that may be implemented, see our [Control Measures factsheet](#).

I'm not directly affected by an outbreak. Is there anything I need to do?

Follow the directions of your local government department of agriculture or primary industries. They will provide information about the EAD outbreak, what activities are taking place in the response to the outbreak and whether there are any actions you should be taking.

INFORMATION FLOW IN A RESPONSE



Your peak industry body - Australian Chicken Meat Federation or Australian Eggs - may also be able to provide guidance or information on the response. Continuing to follow your disease management protocols outlined in your farm biosecurity plan will be your best line of defence against an EAD.

What will my industry be doing during the response?

Your peak industry body representative will be providing operational advice to responders, such as the size and location of the affected industry, to assist the response. They will also provide high level advice to government.

Where do I go for information?

Head to www.outbreak.gov.au. Depending on the scale of the outbreak, local, state or national government bodies will also share information on their social media channels and websites. Your state or territory department of agriculture or primary industries website will have specific information for your local area and your vet may also be able to assist with any queries.

Who pays for the response?

The affected state or territory government will pay for the initial costs of the response to the outbreak. Ongoing costs may be cost-sharable under the Emergency Animal Disease Response Agreement, and eligible costs will be shared between governments and the affected industry. Individual farmers do not pay for the cost of controlling the disease on their properties, but levies contributed by the industry may help to pay for the response.

Should I talk to the media?

There are no restrictions in place to stop you from talking to the media. However, it's important that messaging about the outbreak is consistent to prevent the circulation of incorrect/confusing information, which could affect Australia's market access and your individual trade relationships.

In an EAD response, your peak industry body will have a representative in charge of feeding relevant industry information to the responders and sharing response information back to industry. Working with your industry representative is the best way for you to share information and have your voice heard.

How do I protect my property?

- Implement strong on-farm biosecurity practices. Visit www.farmbiosecurity.com.au for further information.
- Limit contact between domestic poultry and wild birds, especially waterfowl.

MORE INFORMATION

Animal Health Australia

www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au/avianinfluenza

Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment

www.agriculture.gov.au



Australian Chicken Meat Federation

www.chicken.org.au

Australian Eggs

www.australianeggs.org.au

You can also visit your relevant State or Territory Department of Agriculture websites for further information.

Want to know more about EADs?



Enrol today in the free EAD Foundation online course. It will help producers understand Australia's preparedness and response arrangements.

For more information visit

www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au/emergency-animal-disease-training-program