

Avian Influenza A(H5N1) Risk Checklist - Dairy Cattle

Workers should use this risk checklist to prepare for working directly with or in close contact with dairy cattle or environments and materials that are suspected or known to be infected with avian influenza A(H5N1).

This risk checklist may not identify all hazards or control measures. Refer to the risk assessment conducted by your employer and ensure that all recommended control measures are in place.

Use this risk checklist daily, weekly, or as needed to ensure that all precautions for preventing avian influenza A(H5N1) have been addressed. Please note that some sections may not apply to your industry.



Mark (check mark) in the (check box) to respond “yes” based on the description of the section. If the answer is “no” or “not applicable,” provide details in the Notes section at the end of the document. If you’ve answered “no” there may be a potential impact to your health. Be sure to follow up with your employer to investigate and determine appropriate control measures before starting or continuing work. Work with your employer to make sure you consider all hazards and control measures to reduce health risks.

This resource was developed in partnership with the Centre for Food-borne, Environmental and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases of the Public Health Agency of Canada.

Name of Person(s) Completing Checklist:

Date:

Work Activities:

Documentation and Resources Review

Mark “yes” if you have:

Referred to the completed avian influenza A(H5N1) workplace-specific risk assessment and reviewed all recommended control measures prior to starting work.

Reviewed the avian influenza A(H5N1) emergency preparedness and response plan developed by your employer.

Reviewed biosecurity measures as outlined in the National Biosecurity Standards.

Control Measures

Reducing Contact

Mark a "yes" if you have taken all efforts to reduce contact with:

Raw milk.

Sick or infected dairy cattle.

Carcasses, particularly dairy cattle that have died from unknown reasons.

Viscera (internal organs).

Udders from lactating dairy cattle.

Objects that may be contaminated with the virus, for example, buckets or equipment.

General precautions

Mark a "yes" if you have taken precautions to:

Work in well-ventilated environments or outdoors.

Regularly wash hands with soap and water. If soap and water are not available, use hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol.

Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.

Not eat, drink, or smoke in areas where dairy cattle are kept.

Use dedicated clothing and footwear when working on the farm, or appropriate disposable coveralls and boot covers, and safely discard them before leaving the farm.

Wash and change all clothes and footwear and shower after work.

Cleaning and disinfection

Mark a "yes" if you:

Clean and disinfect high-risk areas regularly, such as isolation and calving pens, milking parlours, and water and feed areas.

Clean and disinfect vehicles and equipment before and after use.

Biosecurity measures

Mark a "yes" if you have:

Followed the Dairy Farmers of Canada's proAction program.

Established work practices and controlled access zones to avoid potential cross-contamination by keeping vehicles away from high-risk areas.

Isolated sick cattle from the rest of the herd.

Personal protective equipment (PPE)

Mark a "yes" if you have:

Waterproof gloves, including PVC, nitrile, chloroprene, or rubber gloves.

Safety goggles or face shields if there is a risk of splashing or spraying liquids.

Suitable masks, preferably a fit-tested N95 respirator.

Fluid-resistant coveralls.

Waterproof aprons.

Rubber boots or boot covers.

Head or hair covers.

Cleaned and disinfected reusable personal protective equipment.

Safely discarded disposable personal protective equipment in a sealed plastic bag.

Reporting Avian Influenza A(H5N1)

Mark a "yes" if you:

Know how to report human illness, even if mild, to your employer, healthcare professional or local public health authority after exposure to suspected or confirmed sources of avian influenza A(H5N1).

Understand how to report suspected avian influenza A(H5N1) in cattle to your veterinarian or your local Canadian Food Inspection Agency district office.

Reviewed notification requirements to the government department responsible for occupational health and safety and the workers' compensation board if the reporting requirements for an occupational disease for your jurisdiction have been met.

Notes:

Resources

Biosecurity for Canadian Dairy Farms: National Standard – Canadian Food Inspection Agency

<https://inspection.canada.ca/en/animal-health/terrestrial-animals/biosecurity/standards-and-principles/dairy-farms>

Contact a Canadian Food Inspection office by telephone – Canadian Food Inspection Agency

<https://inspection.canada.ca/en/about-cfia/contact-cfia-office-telephone>

ProAction – Dairy Farmers of Canada

<https://dairyfarmersofcanada.ca/en/our-commitments/proaction>