

ECOS guidelines for Avian Influenza (bird flu)



These instructions apply to staff, students, interns, trainees, guests etc. at the Department of Ecoscience (ECOS).

It is important to minimise the risk of infection between wild birds and poultry herds (I) and between birds and humans (II). For this reason, we have developed guidelines for washing and disinfection in connection with activity in bird colonies in order to avoid the transmission of avian influenza. The guidelines apply in the context of the establishment of restricted, protection and surveillance zones by the Danish Food Safety Authority, where findings of avian influenza have been detected in poultry, see [Food Agency's outbreak manual](#).

Precautions for activity in bird colonies in the restricted protection or surveillance zones:

- General hygiene, i.e. hand and boot wash with soap.
- Equipment or tools that may have been in contact with droppings etc. must be washed and disinfected, e.g. with 1% Virkon S, daily or when changing location.
- 48 hours quarantine for contact with poultry.

Regarding all contact to birds, at minimum the Danish Health Authority's guidelines must be followed at all times. The law of March 2006 states that:

"Outbreaks in poultry herds are still considered to be more risky in terms of human infection than outbreaks among wild birds. However, in the context of outbreaks of H5N1 influenza both in wild birds and in poultry, which appears to be developing into a worldwide epizootic disease (panzooti), guidelines are also required for contamination from wild birds. "

Guidelines are divided into 3 risk levels:

1. Sporadic contact with birds or their droppings
2. Intensive contact with dead wild birds presumed to be infected
3. Contact with poultry herds presumed or confirmed to be infected

Here, in brief, are the recommendations:

Risk level 1: The main precautions are washing your hands with soap following contact with birds and avoiding touching sick or dead birds.

Risk level 2: The most important precaution is to avoid contamination on clothing and mucous membrane by using appropriate disposable protective clothing and gloves and a mask in order to avoid breathing dust.

Risk level 3: Protective clothing must comply with set standards. As an extra precaution, prophylactic treatment with Tamiflu (oseltamivir) should be initiated.

Risk levels 2 and 3 relate to contact with infected birds, dead or alive, which is rarely relevant to employees of BIOS.

The complete guidelines can be read on the Danish Health Authority's website:

<https://www.sst.dk/da/Udgivelser/2006/Vejledning-om-forebyggende-foranstaltninger-hos-mennesker-ved-influenza-hos-fugle>