

# HPAI SAMPLING AND SAMPLE SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

## Approved Sample Collectors

Samples for regulatory testing (testing for HPAI surveillance, movement, or program purposes) may be collected only by the following:

- A Certified Poultry Technician licensed in PA
- A PDA-trained HPAI Sampler (May only collect samples from flocks for which they were approved by PDA and may only collect samples from a flock located within a control area or surveillance zone)
- An accredited Veterinarian

## Required Testing

- For commercial flocks located in a Control Area (Infected and Buffer Zones (1-10 km)) and a Surveillance Zone (10-20 km), weekly testing (every 5-7 days) is required regardless of movement.
- Commercial poultry definitions for surveillance testing if located within a PA HPAI Control Area or Surveillance Zone are as follows:

Commercial flocks are defined as:

- Layers/layer pullets: Raise 75,000 birds or more
  - Broilers: Raise 100,000 birds/year or more
  - Turkeys: Raise 30,000 birds/year or more
  - Waterfowl, Game birds: Raise 25,000 birds/year or more
  - Breeder flocks: Have 5,000 breeder birds or more
  - Associated with a company ownership or management, regardless of flock size
- If moving product out of, within, or into a Control Area, additional testing may be required per the Secure Poultry Supply Plans. To find testing requirements for movement, please refer to the Secure Poultry Supply Plans and verify the requirements with PDA. [Moving Poultry and Poultry Products | SECURE POULTRY SUPPLY \(umn.edu\)](#). Check with PDA for additional requirements for movement of waterfowl.
    - Movement of commercial or backyard poultry or poultry products out of, within, or into a Control Area is by permit only. The USDA EMRS Gateway is recommended for *anyone* who needs a movement permit. Instructions for applying for a permit are located under the *Permitting tab* on the PADLS website. [PADLS HPAI Permitting Information](#) You can reach the permitting section with questions by email at: RA-AG-PAPERMITS@pa.gov

## Number of Samples Required for testing Healthy Flocks

**\*Gallinaceous birds (chickens, turkeys, game birds):**

- Weekly HPAI Surveillance Testing: 22/house for gallinaceous birds (2 tubes/house)
- Testing for Movement: Follow the appropriate Secure Poultry Supply Plan [Moving Poultry and Poultry Products | SECURE POULTRY SUPPLY \(umn.edu\)](#)

Always swab fresh dead birds first, then sick birds, then healthy birds to get the necessary number of swabs. Swabs from dead and sick birds can be combined in a tube, but swabs from healthy birds should be placed in a separate tube. Label the tubes or include on the sub form to indicate which birds are represented in the tube. Also label tubes if you are sampling different species so the lab knows which bird type they are testing.

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**When swabbing gallinaceous species (chickens, turkeys, game birds) swab up to 11 birds per tube of BHI broth**, swirl the swabs in the broth, squeeze them against the side of the tube, and remove the swabs from the tube of BHI. **Do not leave any swabs in the tube.** Dispose of the swabs properly.

Your weekly test must be done every 5-7 days. If this time frame matches your plans for movement, you can use your movement testing as your weekly test, if you check the correct purposes of test on the submission form.

### **\*Waterfowl (Cloacal swabs):**

- Weekly Testing: 35/house for waterfowl (7 tubes/house)
- Testing for Movement: 35/house for waterfowl (7 tubes/house). Check with PDA for additional movement requirements for waterfowl.

Always test fresh dead birds first, then sick birds, then healthy birds to get the necessary number of swabs. Swabs from dead and sick birds can be combined in a tube, but swabs from healthy birds should be placed in a separate tube. Label the tubes or include on the sub form to indicate which birds are represented in the tube. Also label tubes if you are sampling different species so the lab knows which bird type they are testing.

**When swabbing waterfowl, swab up to 5 birds of one species per tube of BHI broth, and leave the swabs in the tube.** Break the handles off close to the swab end so the lid can be closed tightly.

Your weekly test must be done every 5-7 days.

### **Sample Submission**

A completed submission form must accompany all samples for testing. The *High Path Avian Influenza PCR Submission Form* shall be used (only) for samples collected from a flock located within a control area or surveillance zone.

To reduce the risk of cross-contamination, samples should be placed in a clean cooler with ice packs and then handed off at the end of the farm lane to someone who has not been around poultry, and is driving a clean vehicle. Samples can be removed from the farm cooler and the driver can place them in a clean cooler kept in the vehicle for delivery. Samples should be taken to a drop-off site whenever possible to avoid possible cross-contamination at the labs. Samples delivered to a drop-off site by 10 AM may have same-day PCR results.

If you cannot make it to a drop-off site by the cutoff time, you can contact any of the PADLS labs to make a biosecure drop-off at the lab. If that is not possible, refrigerate your samples for next-day drop-off. When not refrigerated, transport BHI tubes upright on ice packs in a clean cooler.

## HPAI SAMPLING AND SAMPLE SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

The following sites are available for sample drop-off:

LOCATION	ADDRESS	HOURS
** There are currently no HPAI specimen drop off locations being operated.		

The PADLS laboratories will offer weekend hours on the following schedule:

Dates	Open Lab	HOURS
** The PADLS laboratories are currently not operating any weekend hours.		
Effective April 20, 2023, weekend testing is no longer be available except for approved emergency sick bird calls. The PADLS emergency testing for sick birds must be authorized by BAHDS (call 717-772-2852, option 1). Please do not bring samples for HPAI testing to any PADLS lab on a weekend or holiday without prior authorization and instructions.		