How to Protect Birds and Prevent Virulent Newcastle Disease
A Guide for Backyard Poultry Owners

Key Points

- People in contact with birds can spread the disease.
- Birds that:
  - survive the infection can spread disease
  - are vaccinated can still spread disease
  - have been exposed to the virus can spread disease before they become sick; If a few birds in your flock are sick it is not safe to move healthy looking birds to another location, because they can be silent carriers
- Birds that look healthy can spread disease.

Best prevention: Don’t move birds; Limit your contact with other people’s birds.

Moving Birds Anywhere Can Spread the Disease

- You should not bring your birds to events where they will be in contact with other birds until the vND outbreak is over.
- Moving birds could spread the virus to the new location and infect an entirely new community.
- If you do take your birds to an event where there are other birds, you should not allow them to co-mingle with your home flock when they return. They should be isolated for at least 30 days to prevent disease exposure to the rest of your flock.
- Isolation should occur on a separate property where there are no other birds because this disease is EXTREMELY contagious and LETHAL to your flock.
- If you do bring birds back to your property after taking them off your property, keep them as far away from other birds as possible, ideally in an enclosed structure.
- It is against the law to violate quarantine orders or to move birds from a known quarantine area.

People and Equipment Can Spread Disease

- If your friends or family own birds, do not allow them to touch your birds and do not touch birds owned by others.
- Do not allow them to come to your property without showering and wearing clean clothes. You should do the same when visiting their property to protect their flock.
- If you go to an event with poultry, shower and change clothes before and after handling your birds.
- If you go to an event with poultry you should wash your vehicle in a carwash before returning home (virus can be carried on tires).
- Do not share equipment or other items with friends, family, or anyone else that is in contact with poultry until the outbreak is over.

For more information on virulent Newcastle disease, please visit:
https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/ahfss/animal_health/Newcastle_Disease_Info.html
**Bringing New Birds Onto Your Property Can Spread the Disease**

**If you have healthy birds on your property:**
- **Isolate** new birds for at least 30 days before you bring them into contact with your existing flock.
- **Isolation** should occur on a separate property where there are no other birds.
- If you do bring new birds directly onto a property with other birds, keep them as far away from other birds as possible, ideally in an enclosed structure.
- **Change clothes and disinfect hands and shoes, in between caring for new and old birds.**

**If you think you’ve had vND on your property and were not contacted by CDFA:**
- If you think you’ve had vND on your property, you should follow all guidelines in the **Cleaning and Disinfection** document before bringing new birds onto your property.
- You should wait a minimum of 120 days after cleaning and disinfecting your property for the disease to die; bringing new birds to your property, before the virus is gone, puts you at risk of losing them to the disease.
- **Even if you have waited 120 days, you should not bring any new birds onto your property if vND is in your neighborhood.** The new birds will likely get sick.

**If you’ve had your birds euthanized by CDFA or are in a known quarantine area:**
- You cannot put new birds on your property until you receive written notice from the State Veterinarian stating that restocking is allowed.

**BEWARE OF THE SURVIVORS!**
Infected birds may appear strong and healthy, however, they carry the virus and can infect other birds for up to six months!

To report an unusual number of sick or dead birds, call:

**Sick Bird Hotline**
(866) 922-2473

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