



AVIAN INFLUENZA VIRUS CLINICAL GUIDELINES AVAILABLE

TO: West Virginia Local Health Departments, Health Care Providers, Health Care Facilities, Health Professional Organizations and Other Health Partners

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LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS: PLEASE DISTRIBUTE TO COMMUNITY HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS, HEALTH CARE FACILITIES, AND OTHER APPLICABLE PARTNERS

OTHER RECIPIENTS: PLEASE DISTRIBUTE TO ASSOCIATION MEMBERS, STAFF, ETC.

Guidelines for diagnosis and management of avian influenza (H5N1) have been developed by the West Virginia Bureau for Public Health Infectious Disease Physician Advisory Group and are posted at:

http://www.wvdhhr.org/idep/pdfs/idep/Influenza/Avian_Flu/Avian_Influenza_Clinical_Guidelines.pdf

Since there have been no human or avian cases of H5N1 in the Americas to date, the diagnosis of avian influenza should be considered in any person with:

- 1) Influenza-like illness or pneumonia; and
- 2) Travel to a country with avian influenza (H5N1) outbreaks; and
- 3) History of exposure to any of the following:
 - a. direct contact with domestic poultry;
 - b. consumption of uncooked poultry or poultry products;
 - c. direct contact with poultry feces; or
 - d. close contact with a known or suspected human case of H5N1.

Testing is available through the West Virginia Office of Laboratory Services. To arrange testing or for any questions, call your local health department or the WV Bureau for Public Health Infectious Disease Epidemiology Program at 800-423-1271 (24-hour availability).

This message was directly distributed by the West Virginia Bureau for Public Health to Local Health Departments, Professional Societies listed in the WV Health Alert Network, and the WVDHHR Disaster Network. Receiving entities are responsible for further disseminating the information to the targeted audiences noted.

Categories of Health Alert messages:

Health Alert: Conveys the highest level of importance, warrants immediate action or attention.

Health Advisory: Provides important information for a specific incident or situation. May not require immediate action.

Health Update: Provides updated information regarding an incident or situation. Unlikely to require immediate action.