



# Avian Influenza/Bird Flu: Recommended PPE for Poultry Workers



Avian Influenza, also known as Bird Flu, is a sickness caused by viruses that spread among birds and other animals. It can spread through manure, spit, and snot. Most people don't need to worry about getting Bird Flu, but people who work with or are around birds are more likely to get it. If you're around sick birds, you can wear personal protective equipment (PPE) to protect yourself.


## What kind of PPE should I wear?

When monitoring bird health, the following PPE helps prevent the spread of Bird Flu:

- **Head protection:** disposable or washable head or hair cover
- **Eye protection:** properly fitted unvented or indirectly vented safety goggles
- **Respiratory protection:** fitted N95, if working directly with sick animals
- **Protective clothing:** fluid resistant disposable coveralls or coveralls that can be disinfected
- **Gloves:** disposable nitrile gloves that can be disinfected
- **Foot protection:** disposable coverings or boots that can be disinfected



**Sick birds or unusual bird deaths should be reported to State/Federal officials either through the state veterinarian or through USDA's toll-free number at 1-866-536-7593.**

402-552-3394  
[go.unmc.edu/cs-cash/cs-cash-contact](http://go.unmc.edu/cs-cash/cs-cash-contact)  
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## Some tasks need more eye and respiratory protection:

If you are involved in depopulation, removal, composting, cleaning, or disinfection add the following:

- **Respiratory protection:** half mask or full facepiece respirator with P100 filters and ammonia or multi-gas cartridges
- **Eye protection:** unvented goggles or a full facepiece respirator



**Tip: When cleaning or disinfecting, always check the product label for PPE recommendations.**



## An important note on respiratory protection:

Working in affected poultry facilities can expose you to dust, harmful gases (such as ammonia), and cleaning chemicals, as well as the Bird Flu virus. It's important to wear respiratory protection to protect yourself from these things.



Ventilation and use of respiratory protection with multi-gas cartridges and P100 filters are recommended when any of these gases and dusts may be present. A particulate filtering respirator with an N95 or P100 filter or cartridge is suitable for dust and viruses, but it does not protect against hazardous gases.



Use cleaning and disinfecting products only as directed. Some cleaning or disinfecting products react with the ammonia in litter to make hazardous gases. Mixing cleaning or disinfecting products together can also produce toxic gases. Check the product label or with the manufacturer for more information.

## RESOURCES

Use your smartphone to scan the QR code, or click on the links.



NIOSH:  
Fit Testing



Ag Health &  
Safety Alliance:  
Respirator  
Storage



CDC:  
The Respiratory  
Protection  
Information  
Trusted Source