



agriculture, forestry & fisheries

Department:
Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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Reference: 12/1/1/99

To All Provincial Directors

Dear Colleagues,

CLARIFICATION AND UPDATE REGARDING DISEASE CONTROL MEASURES FOR HIGHLY PATHOGENIC AVIAN INFLUENZA (HPAI);

1. REQUIREMENTS FOR THE SALE OF LIVE CHICKENS,
2. TESTING OF SUSPECT PROPERTIES AND
3. INFORMATION DISSEMINATION

Due to recent queries received regarding various aspects of the HPAI outbreak, DAFF would like to request that you take note of the following information and distribute it to all of your state veterinarians. Please also refer to our previous letters as the information contained therein remains valid.

Previous letters include:

- a) *"HPAI H5N8 Avian Influenza Outbreak Control Measures"* dated 23 June 2017,
- b) *"Avian Influenza Surveillance and the Registration of Poultry Establishments for export"* dated 26 June 2017
- c) *"Procedure Manual for the sale of live birds Version 2"* sent 30 June 2017
- d) *"Avian Influenza Surveillance and the Registration of Poultry Establishments for export"* dated 4 July 2017
- e) *"AI Surveillance Flow Chart and reporting template"* sent 6 July 2017
- f) *"AI Surveillance"* dated 7 July 2017
- g) *"HPAI Movement Controls of live chickens"* dated 5 July 2017

If you do not have all or any one of these letters, please contact epidemiology@daff.gov.za.

1. Requirements for the sale of live chickens

Please note the Director Animal Health has authorised the Poultry Disease Management Agency (PDMA) to register and keep records of all parties selling and buying live chickens. Due to many enquiries received regarding this registration process, we would like to provide clarification as per the points below:

1.1 The movement of live chickens across provincial borders

The National Director has not prescribed any restrictions on the movement of live chickens across provincial boundaries; however, some provinces have implemented such movement control and may require permits for these movements. Clients should thus be encouraged to liaise with the provincial veterinary services in this regard.

1.2 The registration of auctions

- a) The auction house, buyers and sellers must all be registered with the PDMA;
- b) As far as possible, gatherings of chickens should be avoided but in instances where they cannot be avoided, all registration requirements must be complied with.

1.3 Validity of health declarations for chickens being sold

- a) The validity of the health declaration remains 36 hours;
- b) We are currently engaging with the PDMA to extend this validity as required.

1.4 Enquiries relating to the registration process

All enquiries regarding the registration process must be directed to the PDMA at 012 529 8298 or malesedi@sapoultry.co.za.

1.5 State veterinary movement control of all poultry within the 3km radius of an outbreak is to continue. All of the instructions in our letter entitled "HPAI H5N8 Avian Influenza Outbreak Control Measures" dated 23 June 2017 are still valid.

2. Testing of suspect properties

As stated in previous communication regarding surveillance, all poultry morbidity and mortalities, as well as any unusual wild bird deaths, must be sampled and tested for HPAI. Where morbidity or mortality has been noted in a flock, a positive result for another poultry disease such as *Salmonella enteritidis* or Newcastle disease does not rule out HPAI if testing has not been performed to confirm negative HPAI status. Please note that DAFF will only pay for testing for avian influenza and not for other poultry diseases.

3. Information Dissemination

Updates on the current HPAI H5N8 Avian influenza outbreaks in the country will be provided by DAFF on a regular basis. In addition, should any information require the

immediate attention of the provincial veterinary services, this will be communicated to the affected Province immediately.

State veterinarians and other government officials are requested to be responsible regarding the dissemination of information relating to HPAI outbreaks, especially on social media platforms and to the media.

We trust that you will find this information in order.

Kind regards,



Dr Mpho Maja
DIRECTOR: ANIMAL HEALTH

Date: 2017-07-24

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