How Avian Influenza Virus Spreads

Direct Contact

Infected birds shed virus in feces, respiratory and oral secretions exposing susceptible birds in close proximity.

Pets, Rodents, and Contaminated Eggs

Pets and rodents can carry the virus on their fur or feet. Contaminated eggshells or broken eggs can spread the virus to chicks in incubators.

Airborne Transmission

Respiratory droplets, aerosols, or dust from dried feces can spread the virus. Nearby farms and gardens using untreated poultry manure as fertilizer are highrisk due to windborne transmission.



Fomites are objects or surfaces that can carry and spread viruses or bacteria. The virus can be carried on shoes, clothing, vehicles, and equipment, spreading between farms.

Fecal Contamination

Surfaces and equipment can become contaminated with high concentrations of the virus in bird feces.

As shown above, wild birds can act as reservoirs for the virus, while people and equipment contribute to its transmission. Follow these precautions to reduce the risk, of spreading avian influenza.:

- Sanitize Equipment: Clean and disinfect fomites regularly to prevent virus transmission and dispose of dead birds properly to prevent scavenging.
- **Limit Movement and Quarantine:** Reduce the number of people, amount of equipment and the frequency of their entry into flocks. Isolate new birds for at least 30 days.
- Manage Bird Proximity: Maintain proper spacing and ensure good airflow to lower airborne risks within the poultry house
- Control Rodents and Pets: Keep rodents away and prevent pets and other animals from accessing areas with birds or droppings. Avoid feeding pets raw poultry.
- Use Protective Measures: Wear appropriate clothing and footwear when handling birds or visiting farms.

