

Infrastructure Housing and Environment

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Dear Keeper

Lifting the Control Zones and Prevention Zone at 00:01am on Thursday 13 October 2022

Following discussions with UK Avian Influenza virologists where we have had no further outbreaks of Avian Influenza in domestic birds over the past 6 weeks, and reports of dead seabirds and wildfowl have noticeably reduced, the two 3km Protection Zones and Surveillance Zone and the Prevention Zone (requirement to house) will all be lifted at 00:01am on Thursday 13 October 2022. This is also possible because surveillance visits and the necessary time lapses have been completed following cleansing and disinfecting of the infected premises.

Whilst entering this period of respite, it will no longer be compulsory to house domestic birds in an enclosure completely covered with a solid roof, but keepers must take all reasonable steps to minimise contact of wild birds with their domestic birds' food, water, bedding, and litter.

Good biosecurity should be practised at all times and not just during a disease outbreak. It helps to keep out other poultry diseases such as Newcastle Disease and reduces the risk of zoonotic diseases such as Salmonella becoming established, limits the spread of diseases and helps to protect your neighbours, public health, and the countryside. It also improves overall flock health, cuts costs of disease treatment and reduces losses, which could improve farm profitability.

- foodstuffs and bedding should be stored away from wild bird access and birds must be fed and watered indoors or undercover because the virus will spread if wild birds have access to these

- make your entire premises unattractive to wild birds by hanging strips of tin foil or shiny party streamers
- foot dips should be placed at poultry and other captive bird housing entrances and exits, regularly refilled and correctly diluted with a [UK Defra approved](#) Diseases of Poultry disinfectant so that it is effective to kill the virus
- a separate pair of boots can be placed at the entrance of the enclosure for use only inside their housing. The following YouTube video gives good advice on [How not to walk avian influenza into your poultry coop](#)
- place a boot brush into the foot dip to clean the soles and crevices of mucky boots first so that the disinfectant will be effective in killing the virus from the surface of boots. Soiled foot dips must be regularly replenished
- unauthorised visitors to the flock should be kept to a minimum with staff, vehicle and equipment movements between housing also minimised
- if vehicles must have access, make sure they are clean, and if equipment is shared, make sure it is cleansed and disinfected before and after use
- dedicated protective clothing and washable boots should be provided for those in contact with the birds or their housing and visitors should wash their hands with an effective preparation prior to visiting the birds
- buy feed from a mill or supplier that operates in accordance with Defra and Agricultural Industries Confederation Codes of Practice. Supply clean, fresh drinking water
- when housing and movement restrictions are not in place, be vigilant when purchasing new stock. Use reputable sources and isolate new birds and birds you have taken off your premises
- remove any spilled feed, litter and standing water to avoid attracting wild birds and vermin, and an effective vermin control program should be in place. Poultry houses also should be in a good state of repair to exclude the entry of wild birds and vermin
- maintain a cleaning and disinfecting routine for your bird housing, cages, feed store and pathways leading to and from bird areas
- many diseases, not only Avian influenza but also others like Newcastle disease, Salmonella and Campylobacter are spread by direct bird to bird contact through

secretions and faeces, and indirectly through contaminated feed, water, equipment, boots. If in doubt about what to do, seek advice from your vet before continuing work in other houses and runs.

We appreciate that many of you have gone to great lengths and expense to construct housing for your domestic birds and this will not have gone to waste – you have kept your birds safe, and any person keeping animals must have contingency plans in place for disease outbreaks.

We will continue monitoring reports of dead birds and surveillance testing suitable birds and we will revert to keepers being required to house or keep their birds isolated from other captive birds and wild birds if we perceive the risks are increasing again. Please be considerate of neighbours and commercial farmers who may wish to continue housing their birds over winter.

From Thursday with the lifting of all the zones, movements of birds, pigeon training exercises, and falconry displays within the island can take place again. Commercial farmers have first preference to putting in applications for imports of birds, and backyard keepers will be able to put in [applications](#) from 7 November 2022 for the import of birds from Great Britain and Guernsey only.

Please note that all imported birds need to be housed for a minimum of 30 days on arrival and you will need to submit a housing and biosecurity plan together with your application to rva@gov.je. No movement of birds can take place off the premises for the first 30 days and keepers are reminded if you have more than 30 poultry you must record the [movement](#) of poultry on and to other premises at all times.

We will continue to update our [Avian flu \(gov.je\)](#) website page with the latest advice on keeping your birds safe during the coming months and we recommend that bird gatherings do not take place at this time.

Kind regards, the Government Veterinary Team