

Biosecurity guidelines for bird event organisers in WA

Mixing birds from different properties and locations at an event provides an opportunity for the spread of infectious diseases, including [H5 bird flu](#).

Contact with infected birds, their faeces, secretions, contaminated feed, water, bedding, equipment, vehicles and people (hands, clothing, boots) can spread infectious diseases to other birds.

To reduce the risk of an outbreak at an event, it is recommended that bird event organisers in Western Australia include the following within their event biosecurity plan.

Before the event

The event organiser should:

- Visit wa.gov.au/birdflu for current H5 bird flu advice relevant to events.
- Review their event biosecurity plan and procedures, including their contingency plan to manage the situation if bird movement restrictions are implemented during the event.
- Publicise biosecurity requirements as part of their exhibitor entry information.
- Require event participants to submit a signed declaration as a condition of entry – see Table 1 for an example.
- The biosecurity plan should include provisions to:
 - keep different bird species in separate areas e.g. separate chickens from waterbirds such as ducks etc.
 - solid walls/barriers between pens
 - fully clean and disinfect pens between different groups of birds
 - store all feed and water away from wild bird access or droppings
 - ensure wild birds cannot access the bird exhibit area
 - schedule individual exhibitor bump-in and bump-out times to minimise mixing of birds
 - monitor bird health on arrival and during the event, and immediately isolate and call for veterinary attendance if any signs of ill health seen
 - report any suspicion of a reportable disease such as H5 bird flu to the Emergency Animal Disease hotline on 1800 675 888
 - minimise handling of birds by staff, judges, stewards and volunteers and ensure they wash and sanitise hands between handling different birds or change disposable gloves
 - wash hands before and after handling eggs, and between handling each competitors' eggs or change disposable gloves
 - a plan for locking down the bird area in the case of an infectious disease outbreak such as H5 bird flu. This plan should be communicated to staff and volunteers and be placed at the shed entry.

The declaration

The declaration could form part of the entry form and should include:

- The identity of each bird and its owner.
- The name and contact details of the person in charge of the bird(s).
- The address from which the birds will move (the source property) to the event.
- A statement that the exhibitor:
 - is aware that bringing birds to an event provides an opportunity for infectious diseases to spread and that they have a responsibility to reduce the risk
 - has housed their birds for at least 14 days before the event to prevent direct and indirect contact with wild birds, their droppings and secretions. This includes a covered roof over the bird enclosure, netting, feed and water kept within housing, that water sources are protected from wild bird access or appropriately treated, and feed supplies and bedding are kept secure from wild birds and rodents.
 - has monitored each bird brought to the event during the 7 days before the event and they have not shown any signs of illness
 - is aware bird movement restrictions may be implemented if there is a disease outbreak at the event or within WA during the event.
- The address of the property to which the bird(s) will be moved (destination property) after the event, if known.
- See Table 1 for an example declaration.

At the event

For each consignment of birds arriving at the event, the animal health officer should:

- Ensure all birds in the consignment are accompanied by a completed and signed declaration (i.e. a declaration from each source property).
- Retain the declaration for at least 60 days.
- Have all birds checked for signs of disease on arrival and at regular intervals during the event, and report suspicious disease signs to the Emergency Animal Disease hotline on 1800 675 888.
- At the end of the event, ensure that all vehicles, cages and equipment are cleaned appropriately.
- Dispose of leftover feed, used floor covering (such as sawdust, straw) or other discarded material in a way that prevents contact with other birds (captive or wild) or animals.

Responsibilities of bird exhibitors

Bird exhibitors should follow the event biosecurity guidelines set out by the organiser. For more information on biosecurity for exhibitors, visit:

dpird.wa.gov.au/poultry-biosecurity and download the **Poultry biosecurity for exhibitors factsheet**.

Table 1: Bird event declaration form – EXAMPLE ONLY

Event date	
Name of person in charge of bird consignment	
• Contact phone	
• Address	
Source property address	
Breed / type of birds, number	
Post-event destination property	
Declaration	• I am aware that bringing birds to an event provides an opportunity for infectious diseases to spread and I have a responsibility to reduce the risk. • I have housed the birds being exhibited for at least 14 days before the event to prevent direct and indirect contact with wild birds, their droppings and secretions. This includes a covered roof over the bird enclosure, netting, feed and water kept within housing, that water sources are protected from wild bird access or appropriately treated, and feed supplies and bedding are kept secure from wild birds and rodents. • I have monitored each bird brought to the event during the 7 days before the event and they have not shown any signs of illness. • I am aware bird movement restrictions may be implemented if there is a disease outbreak at the event or within WA during the event.
Signature	
Date	
The information in this declaration may be provided to the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development for tracing purposes in the case of a reportable disease outbreak during or following an event.	

Important disclaimer

The Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development and the State of Western Australia accept no liability whatsoever by reason of negligence or otherwise arising from the use or release of this information or any part of it.

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