November 1, 2023

Dear Live Bird Market Owner/Manager:

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) continues to detect highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) across the United States. Many western states are currently experiencing active infection in both commercial and backyard flock poultry. Additionally, the virus has infected flocks in Alabama, Minnesota, and Iowa. Highly pathogenic avian influenza continues to circulate in wild waterfowl. Currently, the Mississippi Flyway has the largest number of active detections in wild waterfowl.

Additionally, please remember the following:

* + Do not return sick or dead poultry to the distributor if it has entered the market.
	+ Isolate poultry showing early signs of illness as far away from healthy poultry as possible.
	+ Humanely euthanize/slaughter and remove sick or injured poultry from the market within 24 hours.
* Remove mortalities immediately from pens/cages.
* Store dead poultry in a sealed container or double bag until they can be disposed of in a manner consistent with federal, state, and local regulations.
* Do not expose dead poultry to the environment, other poultry, or to wildlife/wild birds.
* Wash your hands after handling sick or dead birds.

State and/or federal inspectors will continue to perform routine inspections and sampling for Avian Influenza in your market. If you have any questions, please contact the Division of Animal Health at (609)-671-6400.

Sincerely,

Amar Patil DVM, MVSc, PhD, Diplomate ACVM

State Veterinarian / Director, New Jersey Department of Agriculture Division of Animal Health
P.O. Box 330

Trenton, NJ 08625-0330

Phone: (609) 671-6400