

TIPS: Your Flock Health Routine

Traffic Control

Limit access: Only essential caretakers.
Signage: Post clear coop/run signs.
Log entries: Record everyone who enters.

Isolation

Boundary: Mark coop perimeter.
Dedicated gear: Use poultry-only clothes and shoes.
Clean gear: Wash or disinfect after use.
No sharing: Don't borrow or lend equipment.
Quarantine: Isolate new birds 14 days.

Pest Control

Exclude wildlife: Block wild birds, rodents and predators.
Secure feed: Store in sealed, rodent-proof bins.
Seal gaps: Close openings to the coop.

Sanitation

Daily removal: Clear manure and debris.
Disinfect: Clean first, then use EPA-registered disinfectant; follow disinfectant wet-time.
Water care: Change water daily; scrub waterers regularly.
Dead birds: Dispose per local rules.

Always Assume Germs

Birds can carry germs without looking sick. However, a bird that seems healthy can still make *you* sick.

Risks include salmonella, *campylobacter*, *E. coli* and bird flu (avian influenza).

Good hand hygiene is key:

- Wash hands with soap and running water for 20 seconds before and after handling birds, eggs, feed, bedding or tools.
- Use sanitizer only if soap and water aren't available. Then, wash at the first opportunity.
- Dry with clean towels; avoid shared cloths.

Never eat, drink, smoke or touch your face until you've cleaned your hands.

If your birds show sneezing, coughing, nasal discharge, diarrhea or loss of appetite, contact a veterinarian right away. These signs can indicate contagious or serious disease and require professional diagnosis and guidance.



How to stay
safe around
your backyard
birds

hhs.iowa.gov/backyard-poultry-safety



How to
defend
your flock

aphis.usda.gov/livestock-poultry-disease/avian/defend-the-flock



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iowaagriculture.gov/animal-industry-division/biosecurity