



January 31, 2020

State Veterinarian Update for Fairs and Shows with Poultry

This advisory is in response to numerous questions about the current risk of spreading virulent Newcastle disease via poultry at fairs and shows.

We have delayed posting this advisory in an effort to improve our understanding of the recent flareup of disease in the Southern California regional quarantine area, and the risk it may pose to fairs and shows throughout the State. While we have detected virus this winter in San Bernardino, Riverside and Los Angeles Counties, the cases appear to be related and reflect flock to flock spread, not extensive underlying disease. We will only know this for sure once more testing is completed throughout the region over the upcoming months, but we are cautiously optimistic.

Considering how highly contagious this virus is, even if we find a few more cases, our substantial progress can be credited to the cooperation of bird owners. When birds are not moved, it prevents virus amplification and gives the virus an opportunity to die naturally in the environment.

Virulent Newcastle Disease Advisory for Fairs and Shows with Poultry:

1. If located within the regional quarantine area of Southern California (western San Bernardino, western Riverside and Los Angeles counties), poultry movement without a permit continues to be prohibited due to the risk of VND.
2. If located outside of the regional quarantine area but in a neighboring county, we advise canceling poultry gatherings due to the risk of illegal movement of sick birds, or the movement of birds that are infected but have not started to show clinical signs, or the movement of contaminated equipment or other carriers.
3. If located in a county with significant poultry farm populations like those in the San Joaquin Valley of California, we advise cancelling poultry gatherings due to the risk of undetected virus spreading to large flocks and expanding from there to impact food production and trade.
4. If located in other areas of California, we advise cancelling in an abundance of caution until the regional quarantine in Southern California is lifted, but a case-by-case risk assessment may be warranted. Contact your local CDFA Animal Health District Office for more information.

Redding District - (530) 225-2140
Modesto District - (209) 491-9350
Tulare District - (559) 685-3500
Ontario District - (909) 947-5932

In all cases, and even after the regional quarantine for VND is lifted, practicing good biosecurity protects flocks from disease. For biosecurity tips, visit the CDFA Avian Health Page: https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/AHFSS/Animal_Health/Avian_Health_Program.html

Sincerely,

Dr. Annette Jones
State Veterinarian
California Department of Food and Agriculture

