

PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE PLAN FOR AVIAN INFLUENZA (BIRD FLU)

Background Information:

Avian influenza (AI) or bird flu due to a highly pathogenic influenza virus, H5N1, is currently affecting at least ten countries in Asia leading to outbreaks of severe disease and mass deaths and destruction of chickens. H5N1 virus has the capacity to be transmitted from infected chickens to cause severe disease and high mortality in humans.

A greater concern is that the present situation could give rise to another influenza pandemic. In a simultaneous infection, the avian and human influenza viruses could interact and exchange genes to give rise to a totally new influenza virus, which is capable of spreading to the human population, most of whom do not have natural immunity or cannot be protected by existing vaccines.

The greatest risk of possible entry of the avian influenza virus rests on the live poultry carrying the AI virus such as layers, breeders, game fowl and the migratory birds from countries with avian influenza. Strict implementation of the ban on importation of all poultry and their products from affected countries need to be sustained. The role of the migratory birds in the transmission of the diseases cannot be ignored thus, efforts need to be exerted to monitor if not, prevent their contact with the domestic poultry.

Taking into consideration the long coastline and the proximity of some countries like Indonesia to the Philippines, entry of avian influenza is possible through smuggling, barter trading and sale in the markets or along the roads of pet and wild birds from countries with AI. Information campaigns and continued vigilance are among the actions that need to be undertaken to address this urgent concern.

The Preparedness and Response Plan for Avian Influenza consists of four stages with corresponding specific actions: **Stage 1**, Avian influenza-free Philippines; **Stage 2**, Avian influenza in domestic fowl in the Philippines; **Stage 3**, Confirmation of avian influenza from poultry to humans in the Philippines; and **Stage 4**, Avian Influenza with human-to-human transmission of pandemic influenza causing outbreaks in the country.

Possible scenarios based on the progression of stages are as follows:

1. Stage 1 is maintained and Philippines remains to have no cases of Avian Influenza in poultry and humans
2. Stage 2 -- AI in domestic fowl but is controlled and no transmission to humans
3. Stage 2 progresses to Stage 3 (AI outbreaks in fowl and cases of AI in humans exposed to sick fowl)
4. Stage 3 without progression to Stage 4
5. Stage 3 to Stage 4 -- human outbreaks due to virus with person-to person-transmission or pandemic influenza virus with or without outbreaks in poultry
6. Stage 1 directly to Stage 4 -- from AI-free Philippines directly to outbreaks in humans because of a pandemic influenza virus

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Stage 1 Avian Influenza-free Philippines

No cases Avian Influenza both in humans and fowl in the Philippines

Strategies/Activities	Lead Agency	Supporting Agencies
A. Sustain ban on Importation of all domestic and wild birds and their products	DA	BOC, PNP
B. Surveillance of Domestic Fowl 1. Monitoring 2. Laboratory diagnosis 3. Upgrading of the Philippine Animal Health Center and of the Regional DA Laboratories	DA	LGU
C. Surveillance of Wild Birds 1. Monitoring 2. Laboratory diagnosis	DENR	DILG, LGU, DA
D. Surveillance of Humans – 1. Case investigation 2. Laboratory diagnosis	DOH	LGU
E. Mobilization of Regional Veterinarians and LGUs	DA	LGU
F. Vaccination 1. Response Teams -provinces, cities, municipalities, health workers 2. Poultry workers/ handlers	DOH	DA
	Poultry Integrators (San Miguel Corp, Universal Robina Corp., Swift Corp. Vitarich, etc.) Private sector	LGU
G. Strict Implementation of Wildlife Law	DENR	DILG, LGU, DA
H. Strengthening coastal monitoring of smuggling of fowl	PCG	DOTC, ILG, LGU
I. Sustained vigilance of local health officials and the community	DILG, LGU	
J. Public Information - Allaying the Fear and Encouraging Public Support for Surveillance – (tri- media, website, hotlines, call centers, community announcements)	PIA	DA, DOH, LGU, Media
K. Price Monitoring of Meat Products	DTI	LGU
L. Preparedness from the National to the Local Level	DOH, DA	LGU

Stage 2 Avian Influenza in Domestic Fowl

Outbreaks of AI in domestic poultry, may be single or simultaneous in various areas

Strategies/Activities	Lead Agency	Supporting Agencies
A. Stamping out all fowl within 3 km radius from the impact site	DA	DILG, LGU, PNP, AFP
B. Vaccination of fowl from the periphery of 3 km up to 8 km radius from the impact site	DA	DILG, LGU, PNP, AFP
C. Possible prohibition of sale of poultry within 18 km radius from the impact site	DA	DILG, LGU, PNP, AFP
D. Continuing quarantine of affected areas	DA	DILG, LGU, PNP, AFP
E. Surveillance of AI in poultry	DA	LGU, DILG, DOH
F. Surveillance of AI in humans	DOH	LGU, DILG, DA
G. Declaration of the area within the 3 km radius from the impact site to be in state of calamity	DA, Crisis Manager	
H. Indemnification	DA	
I. Public information and risk communication	PIA	DOH, DA
Sub-total		

Stage 3 Avian influenza in Humans

Outbreaks of AI in poultry and AI cases in humans exposed to chickens with AI but without person-to-person transmission

Strategies/Activities	Lead Agency	Supporting Agencies
A. Stamping out all fowl within 3 km radius from the impact site	DA	DILG, LGU, PNP, AFP
B. Vaccination of fowl from the periphery of 3 km up to 8 km radius from the impact site	DA	DILG, LGU, PNP, AFP
C. Prohibition of sale of poultry within 18 km radius from the impact site	DA	DILG, LGU, PNP, AFP
D. Continuing quarantine of affected areas	DA	DILG, LGU, PNP, AFP
E. Surveillance of AI in poultry	DA	LGU, DILG, DOH
F. Surveillance of AI in humans	DOH	LGU, DILG, DA
G. Declaration of the area within the 3 km km to be in state of calamity	DA, Crisis Manager	
H. Indemnification	DA	
I. Infection Control		
J. Clinical Management of Cases	DOH	LGU
K. Public Information and Risk Communication	DOH, DA	PIA

Stage 4 Avian Influenza outbreaks in poultry and in humans

Human outbreaks due to virus with person-to person-transmission or pandemic influenza virus

Strategies/Activities	Lead Agency	Supporting Agencies
A. Quarantine of infected persons	DOH	DILG, LGU, PNP, AFP
B. Clinical Management	DOH	LGU
C. Hospital Infection Control	DOH	Specialty Org./PHA
D. Manpower Pooling	DOH	Specialty Org./PMA
E. Vaccines/ Prophylaxis	DOH	DILG
F. Public Information and Risk Communication	DOH	PIA
G. Managing the Psychological Aspects of a Pandemic	DOH	Private Practitioners

