

2024 H5N1 Collection Guidelines for Veterinary Practitioners

Background: Recent H5 detection in waste water has occurred on Oahu. The detection provides no differentiation that the source is animal or human. Only a single detection has occurred from collected samples that were tested during the week of November 7, 2024.

There have been no detections of H5N1 (HPAI) in tested animal samples from Hawaii. The Animal Industry Division routinely conducts passive surveillance on imported poultry and birds that are dead on arrival, and active surveillance during disease investigations of sick or dying resident birds. HPAI is a reportable, actionable disease that is foreign to the United States.

If your practice examines avian cases, especially gallinaceous species or waterfowl, the Animal Industry Division will **accept poultry and waterfowl** for necropsy and active surveillance testing of recently, owned dead gallinaceous birds **submitted by veterinarians**. In addition the Division is making swabs and media available for passive surveillance testing for H5N1 to our partners in practice.

Clinical signs of HPAI

Gallinaceous Species (Chickens, turkeys, quail)	Waterfowl
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marked depression • Anorexia, coughing, sneezing, sinusitis, oral and nasal discharge • Diarrhea • Neurologic signs • Sudden death • Edematous combs and wattles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marked depression • Anorexia, coughing, sneezing, sinusitis, oral and nasal discharge • Diarrhea • Neurologic signs • Sudden death • Edematous combs and wattles

Collect samples from the following locations depending on species:

Species	Collection location
Gallinaceous Species (Chickens, turkeys, quail)	Oropharyngeal
Waterfowl	Cloacal

Tube Size of BHI media	Number of birds pooled samples
3 mL	Up to 5 birds
5 mL	Up to 11 birds

Swabs: synthetic material swabs (Dacron)
Swirl samples in media and remove swabs.

Inoculated media can be refrigerated up to 1 week before submission to the Veterinary Laboratory. Samples should be kept cold with ice packs for drop off or shipment:

Veterinary Laboratory:

99-941 Halawa Valley St., Aiea, HI 96701

Hrs: Monday through Friday 7:45 AM to 4:30 PM Closed Weekends and State Holidays

Routine testing is done weekly at the local NAHLN laboratory, usually on Wednesdays with results available on Fridays.

For additional information or to obtain media and swabs, please contact

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