

# CIS Themes

## Protecting workers against avian influenza

The International Occupational Safety and Health Information Center (CIS) has made a list of selected internet resources providing information on the protection of workers against avian influenza. Prepared and made available by international and national organizations, the documents and guides address risks when working with poultry, in laboratories, as airline crews, etc. Control measures involve using appropriate protection, taking precautions and educating workers in order to prevent an outbreak in the human population.

The list of resources listed below was last updated on **14 July 2006**.

- INTERNATIONAL OSH RESOURCES
  - [United Nations - Resource centre for avian and pandemic influenza communication resources](#)
    - [Poultry workers](#).  
*Description:* Includes links to a series of creative leaflets addressed to poultry workers and prepared in various languages.
  - [World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#)
    - [Avian influenza, including influenza A \(H5N1\), in humans: WHO interim infection control guideline for health care facilities](#) (last amended on **10 May 2007**).  
*Description:* Provides infection control guidance for health care workers in health care facilities evaluating or providing care for patients with suspected or confirmed avian influenza infection.
    - [WHO Laboratory biosafety guidelines for handling specimens suspected of containing avian influenza A virus](#) (12 January 2005).  
*Description:* Guidance for laboratory workers to protect them against avian influenza.
    - [WHO Interim recommendations for the protection of the persons involved in the mass slaughter of animals potentially infected with highly pathogenic avian influenza viruses](#) (26 January 2004).  
*Description:* Recommendations for the protection of poultry workers against avian influenza.
    - [Aide-Memoire: Infection control recommendations for avian influenza in health-care facilities](#) (this document is under revision and an updated version will soon be posted).
  - [Food and Agriculture Organization \(FAO\)](#)
    - [Protect poultry - Protect people. Basic advice for stopping the spread of avian flu](#) (January 2007).  
*Description:* Messages for poultry keepers, veterinarians, culling teams as well as the general public setting out correct practices to avoid the spread of the disease.



- [European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control \(ECDC\)](#)
  - [Guidelines to minimise the risk of humans acquiring highly pathogenic avian influenza from exposure to infected birds or animal](#) (December 2005). European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC).  
*Description:* Guidelines for workers who are directly or indirectly exposed to the virus through their work (e.g. veterinarians exposed to infected birds or those culling birds).
- NATIONAL OSH RESOURCES
  - [CANADA](#)
    - [Avian Influenza - OSH answers.](#)  
*Description:* provides practical information to answer concerns about avian influenza.
    - [Avian Influenza and the Pandemic Threat - Frequently Asked Questions.](#) Industrial Accident Prevention Association (IAPA).  
*Description:* Provides background information about avian influenza, reviews the risk and stages of a pandemic and sets out workplace precautions to be taken by employers to protect workers, including biosafety measures for poultry handlers and processors.
  - [FRANCE](#)
    - [Grippe aviaire et risques professionnels](#) (in French) [Avian influenza and work-related risks]. Institut national de recherche et de sécurité (INRS).  
*Description:* Gives an update on avian influenza work-related risks and preventive measures, and proposes links to other documents prepared by French institutions.
    - [Grippe aviaire](#) (in French) [Avian influenza]. The interministerial site of the French government.  
*Description:* Gives answers to all questions about avian influenza and includes the English version of the [Governmental plan for the prevention and control of influenza pandemic.](#)
  - [GERMANY](#)
    - [Schutz von Beschäftigten vor der Vogelgrippe](#) (in German) [Protection of workers against avian influenza]. Jointly prepared by the Hauptverband der gewerblichen Berufsgenossenschaften - HVBG, Bundesverband der Unfallkassen - BUK, Bundesverband der landwirtschaftlichen Berufsgenossenschaften - BLB).  
*Description:* Release prepared by the German accident insurance institutions (HVBG, BUK and BLB) that sets out general safety measures to protect workers against avian influenza.
    - [Aktuell: Vogelgrippe in Deutschland - Hinweise der Berufsgenossenschaften](#) (in German) [Avian influenza in Germany - Recommendations made by professional associations].  
*Description:* Gives access to a series of documents providing general guidance to workers as well as information targeted at specific industrial sectors (such as medical services, restaurants, food processing industries, etc.).

- NEW ZEALAND
  - [Influenza Pandemic Planning Information for Business Continuity](#). Ministry of Economic Development (MED).  
*Description:* Contains (1) a *Business Continuity Planning Guide*, which comprises a range of information designed for general use by businesses and other organisations in New Zealand and (2) a *Pandemic Planning Information Kit* tailored for infrastructure providers in the energy, communications, transport, water and waste sectors.
- PORTUGAL
  - [Doença humana por vírus da gripe de origem aviária A \(H5N1\) - Medidas de protecção individual em Serviços de Saúde](#). (in Portuguese) [Human infection with avian influenza virus A (H5N1) - Personal protective equipment for health care workers]. Ministry of Health.  
*Description:* Provides guidance for protecting health care workers.
- UNITED KINGDOM
  - [Working with highly pathogenic avian influenza virus](#). Health & Safety Executive (HSE).  
*Description:* Addresses risks when working with poultry, in laboratories and for health care workers.
- UNITED STATES
  - [Guidance for protecting workers against avian flu](#). Department of Labor - Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA).  
*Description:* Provides background information on transmission and prevention to anyone, such as farm animal handlers, laboratory workers, food handlers, etc. who may come in contact with contaminated birds.
  - [Avian influenza protecting poultry workers at risk](#). Department of Labor - Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA).  
*Description:* Advisory paper intended to assist employers in providing a safe and healthy workplace to poultry workers.
  - [Interim Guidance for Protection of Persons Involved in U.S. Avian Influenza Outbreak Disease Control and Eradication Activities](#). Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).  
*Description:* Guidelines on how to protect people involved in activities that could result in exposure to avian influenza, such as culling operations, carcass disposal, and cleaning and disinfection of premises. [ Display this document in : [Spanish](#) ]
  - [Interim recommendations for persons with possible exposure to avian influenza during outbreaks among poultry in the United States](#) (February 2004). Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).  
*Description:* Provides interim guidance for persons who might be exposed to avian influenza, health-care professionals and consumers of poultry. [ Display this document in : [Spanish](#) ]
  - [Interim guidance for airline flight crews and persons meeting passengers arriving from areas with avian influenza](#). Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).  
*Description:* Specific guidance on the handling of passengers suspected of having avian influenza.



- [National Influenza Pandemic Plans](#).  
*Description:* Countries' responses to a pandemic influenza threat.
- [Strategic and operational plan for responding to pandemic influenza](#), Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) (Draft, 23 September 2005).  
*Description:* Based on the [WHO global influenza preparedness plan](#) (listed above), the PAHO plan takes a multisectoral, phase-specific approach to planning for an influenza pandemic and emphasizes the need for joint action among authorities in health, agriculture, emergency response, and other sectors, as well as with civil society and the private sector.