

Pandemic Flu and You

Practice Backyard Biosecurity

If you raise poultry (chickens, ducks, geese etc.) follow these guidelines:

- 1 **Keep your distance** – restrict access to your property and your birds.
- 2 **Keep it clean** –disinfect your shoes and clothing before working with your birds.
- 3 **Don't haul disease home** – disinfect tires and cages if you travel to a location where other birds are present.
- 4 **Don't borrow disease from your neighbor** – don't share lawn and garden equipment or poultry equipment with neighbors or other bird owners.
- 5 **Know the warning signs of infectious bird diseases** – sudden increase in bird deaths; sneezing, gasping for air, cough and nasal discharge; watery and green diarrhea; lack of energy and appetite; tremors, drooping wings, circling, twisting of the head and neck or lack of movement; purple discoloration of the wattles, combs and legs.
- 6 **Report sick birds:**
 - Report any crows, ravens, magpies and jays that have been dead for less than 24 hours. A visual guide to bird identification can be found at:
http://westnile.ca.gov/bird_report_id.htm http://westnile.ca.gov/bird_report_id.htm.
 - CDHS has established a toll free line: 877-WNV-BIRD for public reporting and disposal instructions. Birds can also be reported by visiting the WNV Web site at <http://vector.ucdavis.edu/cfm/deadbird.cfm>. If you need to pick up a dead bird, or local authorities tell you to simply dispose of it, avoid barehanded contact with any dead animals, and use gloves or an inverted plastic bag to place the bird carcass in a garbage bag.

For more information on backyard biosecurity and avian influenza (bird flu) visit:

- US Department of Agriculture:
www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/birdbiosecurity/tips.html
- National Chicken Council:
www.nationalchickencouncil.com/pressroom/pr_detail.cfm?id=50