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# Health Advisory

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## Avian Influenza Update

This communication serves as an update to the August 2024 advisory on highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI). As of October 18, 2024, there are now 137 dairy farms with bovine cases in the Central Valley (including Madera County), and 15 human cases associated with cattle exposure in California.

**Given the ongoing spread, consider and test for avian influenza A (H5N1) in patients with exposure to livestock who present with flu-like symptoms or conjunctivitis, particularly if other common illnesses, such as COVID-19, have been excluded.** There is no risk to consumers from pasteurized milk and dairy products.

### Key Recommendations for Healthcare Providers:

1. **Testing:** Contact the Madera County Department of Public Health to coordinate testing and for specimen send out: 559-675-7894.

For all patients, collect:

- A nasopharyngeal swab
- A conjunctival swab for those with conjunctivitis (see attached instructions)
- AND if feasible, an oropharyngeal and nasal swab.

Place swab(s) in vials containing viral transport media (VTM) or universal transport media (UTM); nasal and oropharyngeal swabs may be placed in the same vial.

- Freeze or refrigerate specimens after collection.

For detailed instructions use the link below for more information.

2. **Isolation and Reporting:** Advise suspected cases to stay home away from others, and to wear a mask when they cannot. Report suspects cases immediately to the Madera County Department of Public by Phone: (559) 675-7894.

3. **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for patient care:** Use standard, contact, and airborne precautions, including gowns, gloves, eye protection, and N95 respirators, when evaluating suspected cases.
4. **Antiviral Treatment:** Consider prescribing oseltamivir (Tamiflu) for suspected H5N1 cases and their close contact/family members while awaiting test results.

The latest guidance from CDPH on testing, treatment, PPE and Infection Control can be accessed at:

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/BirdFluHP.aspx>

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Categories of Health Alert Messages:

**Health Alert:** Conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention

**Health Advisory:** Provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action

**Health Update:** Provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action

**Health Information:** Provides general health information which is not considered to be of emergent nature

