TARONGA CONSERVATION SOCIETY AUSTRALIA

Australian Registry of Wildlife Health

H5 Bird Flu Clinic Biosecurity Plan Template

Overview

This document is designed for use by veterinary practices. The aim of the document is to provide a template and stimulate discussions leading to the creation of a clinic specific strategy and plan to mitigate the risks and impacts of High Pathogenicity Avian Influenza H5N1 2.3.4.4b (referred to as H5 bird flu) in Australia.

Acknowledgements

This document has been written by Taronga's Australian Registry and Wildlife Health. We are grateful for contributions from NSW Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, NSW Health and the Veterinary Practitioners Board of NSW.

This template is based on scenario-based resources developed by the American Animal Hospital Association, which are available via www.aaha.org/trends-magazine/publications/feeling-ready-scenario-based-planning-for-hpai-h5n1-in-small-animal-practice/

Version 4.0 Updated Aug 2026

Introduction

This Clinic Biosecurity Plan Template has been developed for a veterinary hospital setting where there may be exposure to domestic or wild animals infected with High Pathogenicity Avian Influenza (HPAI), H5N1, referred to as H5 bird flu.

This document has been designed as an exemplar, to be modified by veterinary professionals to meet the needs of protecting the health of the animals in their care and the health of their staff, volunteers, students and clients.

Team-wide discussions, scenario-based planning and formal risk assessment processes form an excellent basis to adapt this document to meet your clinic's biosecurity needs.

Resources that may support your team's efforts to tailor this template into your own biosecurity strategy and plan include:

- **Australian Animal Health Committee – National H5 high pathogenicity influenza guidelines for veterinarians.**
  Guidance for veterinarians provided by state and territory government, Australian veterinary Association and Wildlife Health Australia representatives.
  https://www.ava.com.au/wp-content/uploads/National-H5-HPAI-guidelines-for-veterinarians-FINAL.pdf

- **High Pathogenicity Avian Influenza (HPAI) and Wildlife in Australia – A Risk Mitigation Toolbox for Wildlife Care Providers**
  Provides abundant information on H5 bird flu and a thorough H5 bird flu risk mitigation checklist.
  www.wildlifehealthaustralia.com.au/Portals/0/Incidents/WHA_HPAI_Risk_mitigation_toolbox_WCP.pdf

- **High Pathogenicity Avian Influenza Preparedness Resources Developed by the Australian Registry of Wildlife Health and NSW Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD)**
  Provides H5 bird flu preparedness presentations and videos, and a resource manual that incorporates reporting requirements, clinic biosecurity practices, disinfection, PPE fitting and usage, wildlife handling, triage, first aid, sample collection and sample shipping.
  https://arwh.org/resources/

Ensure that your planning incorporates an assessment of equipment, infrastructure, human resources, and staff training required.
Review processes and training requirements during weekly meetings, with more thorough reviews quarterly or as new situations or information resources arise.

Clinic Strategy (modify the following text to suit your clinic)

When clients ring to book an appointment our reception staff will assess the likelihood of H5 bird flu infection on the property of origin prior to the movement of animals.

In high-risk situations the caller will be advised not to move the animal and to contact the **Emergency Animal Disease Hotline on 1800 675 888.**

All high-risk animals will be assessed outside of the clinic.

Community members calling to report sick or dead wildlife will be instructed not to touch the affected animals, and to: **Avoid, Record, Report** (to the Emergency Animal Disease Hotline). Callers will be asked to keep their pets away from the animals and the affected area.

Signage on the clinic doors will direct the community not to enter the clinic if they have a high-risk property or animal.

Questions for Reception Staff to Ask Clients Calling to Book an Appointment		
Questions	Action if the reply to ANY question is Yes	Action if replies are ALL NO
Is your property within or near a declared Restricted or Control Emergency Zone? If uncertain check the NSW DPIRD website: www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/dpi/biosecurity/emergency-management/biosecurity-emergencies		
Is this animal, or are other animals on your property exhibiting signs of infectious disease including: -incoordination, tremors, spasms, twisted necks, head held upside down, inability to stand or fly, unusual vocalisations, - diarrhoea or regurgitation,	Advise the caller not to move the animal, not even to a veterinary clinic. Advise the client to call the Emergency Animal Disease Hotline on 1800 675 888 and follow the instructions provided	If uncertain regarding the potential level of risk, discuss the situation with the Clinic Manager or Senior Veterinarian, or ring the Emergency Animal Disease Hotline to seek advice.

- rapid or laboured breathing, coughing or sneezing, oral or nasal discharge, - swelling of the head - conjunctivitis, eye cloudiness or change in eye colour.		Book the appointment when the assessed risk is low. Ask the client to call the clinic if their answers to any of these questions change prior to their appointment.
Is the animal a seabird, shorebird, bird of prey, or scavenging bird or mammal?		
Have there been any unusual animal mortalities on the property in the past week?		
Has anyone from your property been within a Restricted or Control Emergency Zone within the past 72 hours?	Enquire about the potential level of exposure to H5 bird flu affected animals, potential routes of contamination of clothing, vehicles, or other equipment. If uncertain regarding the potential level of risk, discuss the situation with the Clinic Manager or Senior Veterinarian, or ring the Emergency Animal Disease Hotline to seek advice	

All clinic suppliers will be contacted to understand their biosecurity practices and the risks that they may pose to our clinic based on the contents of their products (do they contain poultry products) and the movement of their people, vehicles and other equipment that may carry the virus.

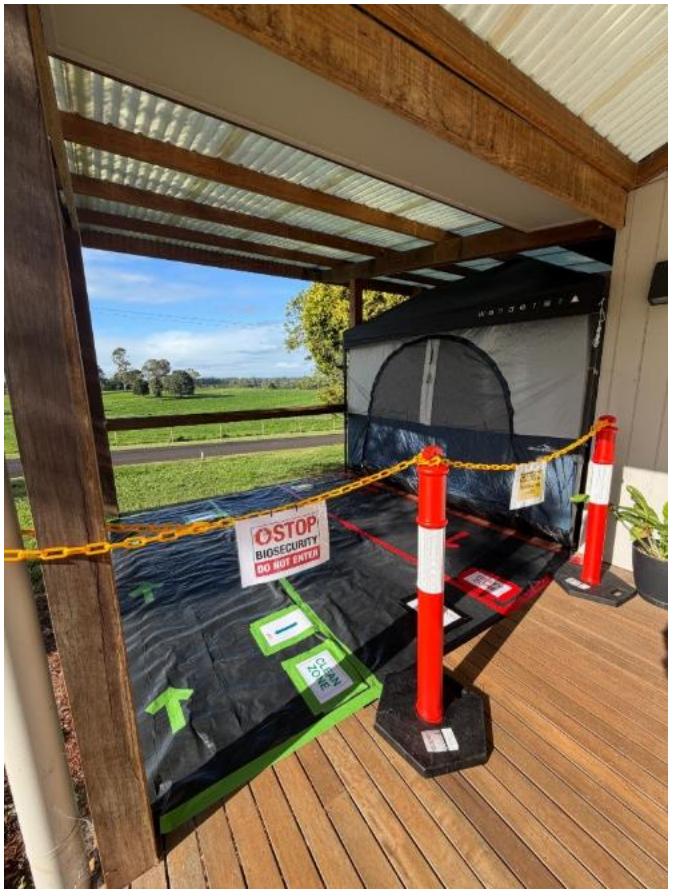
A triage centre will be established in partnership with local veterinary clinics and local wildlife rehabilitation centres, with the aim of preventing H5N1 viruses from entering these centres/clinics.

The triage centre will be established on an identified property distant to human and other animal activity either:
- a disused shed
- a tent erected in a shaded area
- or in a caravan or demountable office.

The Veterinary Practioners Board of NSW will be notified of the location of the triage centre and any other locations where staff will be conducting veterinary procedures.

This facility will be fitted with running water, drainage, good lighting, mechanical ventilation, and surfaces that can be cleaned and disinfected. A shade tent over a portable table may be used for short-term activities.

Anterooms, or transition zones demarcated with masking or gaffer tape on the floor, will be established at the entrance to the triage centre, isolation rooms, and animal holding areas. This anteroom/transition zone will contain a disinfectant-filled footbath, a laundry bag, rubbish bag, waterproof footwear that does not leave the area, had sanitiser and a hand-wash station. Personal protective equipment (PPE) of appropriate sizes for the staff using the facility, and personal items will be positioned at the point of entry into the anteroom or transition zone.



Minimum PPE to reduce the risk of H5 bird flu spread includes a P2/N95 respirator, eye protection (goggles or face mask), washable or disposable gloves, coveralls, and boots that can be washed and disinfected. Personal protective equipment will be fit-tested for each individual and the order of donning and doffing (putting on and taking off) PPE will be carefully monitored to prevent accidental contamination. Appendix A: Safe Use of Personal Protective Equipment contains a PPE donning and doffing checklist, and a video demonstrating of the procedure is available via https://arwh.org/h5-hpai-fieldofficertraining/

P2/N95 respirators will be fit tested each time they are worn, using NSW Health Guidelines available via: www.cec.health.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0010/566776/Principles-of-fit-checking.pdf

Staffing:
The centre will be staffed by retired (yet registered to practice in NSW) local veterinary professionals and volunteers, as much as possible. Clinic staff may work at the triage centre on their last day of their roster, or at the end of their shift. All centre staff will shower prior to returning to their pets or the clinic.
Weekly meetings will be conducted to review and refine protocols and communications, to prevent complacency, and to support mental health. Difficult conversations setting expectations will be conducted prior to the first shift of new personnel.

AN EXEMPLAR WILDLIFE TRIAGE AND ISOLATION TENT ERECTED OUTSIDE OF A VETERINARY PRACTICE. CLEAN AND DIRTY ZONES IN FRONT OF THE TENT FACILITATE EFFECTIVE PPE DONNING AND DOFFING.BIOSECURITY SIGNAGE IS IN PLACE. IMAGE USED WITH THE PERMISSION OF NORTHERN RIVERS WILDLIFE HOSPITAL.

Safety:

- A staff induction will be conducted prior to new staff working at the triage centre.
- A logbook, or online reporting system will be established to track risks, near-misses, and accidents resulting in human or animal injury.
- PPE will be changed between each animal examined and hands will be washed with soap and water or hand sanitiser
- No human food or drinking water will enter the triage centre or animal holding areas
- Rest breaks will be provided to ensure adequate hydration and to prevent injuries. Staff will safely remove PPE and wash their hands prior to eating or drinking.
- Messages will regularly be shared among personnel reinforcing the concept that humane euthanasia can be a positive outcome and a service to the animal and community.

This table is a template to be modified based on your staffing, responsibility delegation, facilities and workflow.

Roles and Responsibilities			
Role	Staff Covering (Names)	Primary Responsibilities and Tasks related to H5N1	Training, Equipment, Protocols needed?
Receptionist		Recognising suspect case during triage and contacts technician/vet to put on PPE and place patient in isolation area and/or (on phone) how to set up an appointment • Client communication • Record transfer to state or local health department • Record keeping • Contacting public health/animal health/lab • Clean/Disinfect • Daily checking of the NSW DPIRD website, or the BioResponse NSW App to monitor changes of disease distribution and emergency/control zone declarations • Risk communication	**Training** on H5N1 clinical signs, plan to address suspect cases; and risk communication, including when to raise any concerns with a clinic veterinarian or the clinic manager prior to contacting the Emergency Animal Disease Hotline. Donning and doffing (or putting on and taking off) of PPE & infection prevention and control Respirator mask fit checking fit-testing: www.cec.health.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0010/566776/Principles-of-fit-checking.pdf **Equipment:** PPE, Key Contact List

Veterinarians		• Lead on response, including instituting infection prevention and control measures, and staff delegation • Recognising suspect case during triage and contacts technician/vet to put on PPE and place patient in isolation area • Primary responsibility for reporting by contacting Emergency Animal Disease Hotline • Exam • Diagnostics • Record keeping • Medical plan • Client communication • Clean/Disinfect • Lead After Action Review to identify areas to improve for the next time & celebrate strengths, updating plan • Communicates risk to the Emergency Animal Disease Hotline or local District Veterinarian whenever there are cases of concern regarding potential H5 bird flu infection (as described above in the table of questions for reception staff to ask). • Communicates risk to the local Public Health Unit whenever personnel without sufficient PPE have been exposed to animals that test positive for H5 bird flu, and if these individuals develop flu-like symptoms.	**Training** in infection prevention and control, donning and doffing (or putting on and taking off) of PPE, and risk communication. **Risk Communication** to the Emergency Animal Disease Hotline or local District Veterinarian will occur whenever there are cases of concern regarding H5 bird flu (as described above in the table of questions for reception staff to ask). The local public health unit will be contacted whenever personnel have been exposed to animals that test positive for H5 bird flu when they were not wearing the minimum PPE described above. Respirator mask fit checking and fit-testing: www.cec.health.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0010/566776/Principles-of-fit-checking.pdf **Equipment:** Cleaning and disinfectant chemicals, diagnostic sample collection/forms, PPE, Key Contact List
Veterinary Nurse or Technician		Recognising suspect case during triage and contacts technician/vet to put on PPE and place patient in isolation area and/or (on phone) how to set up an appointment • Setting up infection prevention and control • Patient care • Client communication • Record keeping	**Training** on infection prevention and control & PPE donning and doffing (or putting on and taking off), risk communication Respirator mask fit checking and fit-testing: www.cec.health.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0010/566776/Principles-of-fit-checking.pdf

		• Being aware of the clinical signs of H5 bird flu and notifying a clinic veterinarian if animals in care exhibit any of these signs. • Diagnostic testing & sending samples to laboratory • Contacts Public Health Unit/Elizabeth Macarthur Agricultural Institute regarding animal testing, or the Emergency Animal Disease Hotline, as directed by a clinic veterinarian	**Equipment:** Cleaning and disinfectant chemicals, diagnostic sample collection/forms, sample shipping, PPE, Key Contact List
Animal Care/ Kennel Staff		• Clean/Disinfect • Patient care • Being aware of the clinical signs of H5 bird flu and notifying a clinic veterinarian if animals in care exhibit any of these signs.	**Training** on infection prevention and control & PPE donning and doffing (or putting on and taking off) Respirator fit checking and fit-testing: www.cec.health.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0010/566776/Principles-of-fit-checking.pdf **Equipment:** Cleaning and disinfectant chemicals, diagnostic sample collection/forms, PPE
Clinic Manager		• Client communication • Supplier checks and documentation • Record transfer to state or local health agencies • Induction of new personnel to ensure that they know the signs of H5 bird flu and understand the preparedness protocols • Audit hygiene and adherence to biosecurity best practice • Review and revise this plan and its implementation, and associated documents quarterly and as required • Contacts Public Health Unit/Elizabeth Macarthur Agricultural Institute regarding animal testing, or the Emergency Animal Disease Hotline, as directed by a clinic veterinarian	**Training** in prevention and control, donning and doffing (or putting on and taking off) of PPE, and risk communication. Respirator mask fit checking and fit-testing: www.cec.health.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0010/566776/Principles-of-fit-checking.pdf **Equipment:** Cleaning and disinfectant chemicals, diagnostic sample collection/forms, sample shipment, PPE, Key Contact List

		• Monitoring the mental health of staff, students and volunteers to ensure that mental fatigue or stress is kept to a manageable level and that personnel have an outlet to talk about their experience and guidance to seek help from their General Practitioner or the Mental Health Line of NSW Health as soon as required.	

Waste management:

- Use of disinfectants sprays will be minimised to reduce exposure to aerosolised chemicals that may pose a health and safety risk.
- General waste will be bagged and the outside of the bags will be rubbed with dual-purpose hospital grade wipes that both clean and disinfectant (biodegradable versions are commercially available) prior to disposal in red bins located outside the triage centre.
- Surfaces will be cleaned and disinfected with similar hospital grade disinfectant wipes between animals and as necessary.
- Sharps bins will be kept within all areas where animals are handled. When these are full, they will be double bagged, the outside of each bag will be rubbed with disinfectant wipes and the bins will be placed into contaminated waste bins (or other process in alignment with biosecurity needs and the practices of the contaminated waste contractor).
- Animal remains will be double bagged, the outside of the bags will be rubbed with disinfectant wipes prior to disposal, as usual, via incineration. Bagged remains may be stored in a chest freezer located inside the triage centre prior to collection by the contaminated waste contractor. This advice may change after confirmation of the presence of the virus locally.
- Wastewater will be disposed of either onto the ground (away from groundwater sources), or via sewage (based on inspection and advice from the local council).

Laundry management:

- Laundry will be bagged each day. The outside of the bag will be rubbed with disinfectant wipes and allowed to rest for 20 minutes prior to movement to the transitional zone, where the wiping process will be repeated and the bag will be allowed to rest a further 20 minutes prior to movement to a small shed containing a washing machine set up at the back of the triage centre. Laundry will be washed in hot water, using colour-safe bleach (sodium hypochlorite product), and dried on a rack in the sun immediately adjacent to the washing machine.
- The outside of the washing machine will be cleaned and disinfected with dual-purpose wipes and the inside of the washing machine will be cleaned by running a 30-minute washing cycle containing 1% sodium hypochlorite (bleach - 200mL of 5% solution into 800mL water).

Equipment management:

- All animal equipment will remain in the triage centre and will be cleaned and disinfected between each animal.
- Equipment that is difficult to clean and disinfect (scales, microchip reader, Xray head and controls) will be wrapped in plastic prior to use, with the plastic changed between animals.
- Gas anaesthetic machines cannot be disinfected; injectable anaesthetics can be used or consider a dedicated anaesthetic machine for this purpose.

Animal identification and records:

- A computer will be in the triage centre to keep accurate medical records and complete sample submission forms.
- All animals will be identified with leg bands or nail polish applied to claws.

Sample management:

- Avian influenza testing will only be available at NSW DPIRD's Elizabeth Macarthur Agricultural Institute, and the costs will only be covered by NSW DPIRD when the testing has been requested by Hotline staff or the District Veterinarian.
- Phosphate buffered gelatine saline (PBGS), swabs and sample packaging materials will be housed in the triage centre. PBGS will be retained frozen in a dedicated freezer. Samples will be collected, stored and shipped as directed by the Emergency Animal Disease Hotline. The samples will be held in the small refrigerator pending courier collection.

Cleaning and disinfection:

- The triage centre will be cleaned and disinfected each evening and between high-risk cases. A dual-purpose product that cleans and disinfects may be used, however, when visible organic matter is present, a two-step process of cleaning with a neutral detergent, and then disinfecting is preferable.
- A process of cleaning, rinsing, drying and inspection should precede disinfection.
- Disinfectants will be chosen based on their efficacy against viruses, stability, minimal corrosiveness, and safety for humans, animals and the environment.
- Brushes, baths and wipes with disinfectants are preferable to spray bottles, to reduce exposure to aerosolised chemicals that may pose a health and safety risk. Biodegradable disinfecting wipes are commercially available.

Disinfectants active against avian influenza viruses include:

- 1% Virkon S™ (10-30 minutes)
- 70-90% ethanol (10 – 20 minutes contact time)
- 60-90% isopropyl alcohol
- 3% hydrogen peroxide (30 minute contact time)
- Domestic bleach (Sodium hypochlorite, 40 ml/L to make a 0.5% solution) contact time 15-30 minutes
- Quaternary ammonium compounds such as F10 or Safe4™.
    - Some formulations of F10 contain a cleaning agent and others are purely a disinfectant to be used on previously clean items.
    - F10 disinfectant applied at 1:500 in water (2mL of concentrate per 1 litre of water) for a minimum of 10-30 minutes should be effective against influenza viruses
    - Safe4™ Disinfectant Cleaner – includes a detergent, surfactant and disinfectant when made up to manufacturer's directions at a 1:50 dilution rate for 30 minute contact period.

The AUSVET PLAN Operation Manual on Decontamination provides additional details on appropriate cleaning and disinfection methods and products. https://animalhealthaustralia.com.au/wp-content/uploads/dlm_uploads/2026/06/AUSVETPLAN-Operational-Manual-Decontamination-v5.2.pdf

Safety Data Sheet of the chemicals used will be on hand to ensure effective usage and institution of appropriate human health controls. Care will be taken to ensure that the disinfectant is freshly made, the dilution is correct, that it is applied for the recommended contact time. The chemicals will be disposed of disinfectants in an appropriate manner, consistent with local council guidelines.

Post Triage Quarantine:

- Six quarantine aviaries have been established, each containing a series of 10 cages, animal husbandry material and basic veterinary supplies. Each aviary is specific for wildlife, pet birds, or poultry. Each quarantine aviary has a transitional zone/anteroom, set up with PPE, a laundry bag, a rubbish bin and disinfectant footbath, as per the triage centre.
- Animals deemed suitable for treatment and care on-site will be moved into one of these aviaries. All animals in an aviary will be quarantined for a 14-day period from the date that the last animal entered.
- NSW DPIRD will direct management for any animals that test positive as per emergency procedures outlined in AUSVETPLAN.

Shearwater Migration

- Based on experience in previous spring migratory bird season, where no short-tailed shearwaters have recovered to the point of release, these animals will be assessed and euthanised at or near the point where they were discovered. The Emergency Animal Disease Hotline will be contacted to determine whether testing is warranted.
- Shearwaters presenting outside of migration season will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

Risk assessments regarding the establishment and use of the triage centre and aviaries, and the management of high-risk cases will be conducted using the framework provided by NSW DPIRD, in “Avian Influenza Information for Private Veterinarians. A guide for case management” available via: www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0003/1607673/Avian-Influenza-Information-for-Private-Veterinarians-A-guide-to-case-management-FINAL.pdf

Consultation that has been conducted in the preparation of this plan include:

- Local veterinary clinics
- Local wildlife rehabilitation centres
- Local District Veterinarian
- Local Council – to enquire if any consents were required for the operation the triage centre and to discuss disposal
- and the Veterinary Practitioners Board of NSW – to discuss changes in clinic practices and the operation of the triage centre.

Key Contacts

Upon your earliest suspicion of H5 bird flu in animals, please contact the Emergency Animal Disease Hotline.

Your nearest District Veterinarian or Biosecurity Officer may be able to offer support in collecting and shipping samples for diagnostic testing at the Elizabeth Macarthur Agricultural Institute, NSW Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD).

If there is human illness that may be linked to exposure to H5 bird flu infected animals, the affected individual should be encouraged to contact their local Public Health Unit of NSW Health and their medical practitioner.

Here are links to help you:

Contact	Phone number	Web-location/Email address/Comments
Emergency Animal Disease Hotline – report mass or unusual mortality events, un	1800 675 888	
District Veterinarians and Biosecurity Officers	**1300 795 299** will direct you to your Local Lands Services representative who can put you in touch with your local District Veterinarian or Biosecurity Officer.	A full list of contact details across the state is available via: https://www.lls.nsw.gov.au/biosecurity/emergency-animal-disease/district-vet-contact-details
Diagnostic Laboratory – Elizabeth MacArthur Agricultural Institute (EMAI) – Specimen Reception	1800 675 623	Please contact prior to shipping specimens for diagnostic testing. laboratory.services@dpird.nsw.gov.au
NSW Health – Public Health Units – to report human contacts or human illness after H5 bird flu exposure	**1300 066 055** will direct you to your local Public Health Unit.	A full list of contact details across the state is available via: www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/Pages/phus.aspx
Mental Health Line – NSW Health Consider calling your GP or other primary health care provider.	1800 011 511	www.health.nsw.gov.au/mentalhealth/Pages/mental-health-line.aspx

Mental Health Support Services from the Australian Government Department of Health, Disability and Aging.		www.health.gov.au/topics/mental-health-and-suicide-prevention/mental-health-and-suicide-prevention-contacts
NSW DPIRD, EMAI's Veterinary Specimen Advice Form		www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0007/680425/Vet-specimen-advice-form-Oct-2023.pdf
NSW DPIRD, EMAI's PBGS media order:		www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/about-us/services/laboratory-services/kits-and-media/order-media PBGS (viral transport medium) In the Additional Information field – ask for sterile swabs to be included
Key Avian Influenza Information		Wildlife Health Australia Took Kit and video: https://wildlifehealthaustralia.com.au/Incidents/Incident-Information/high-pathogenicity-avian-influenza-information National H5 high pathogenicity influenza guidelines for veterinarians. https://www.ava.com.au/wp-content/uploads/National-H5-HPAI-guidelines-for-veterinarians-FINAL.pdf www.michellewille.com/avian-influenza-resources/

H5 Bird Flu Equipment and Supplies Checklist

INFECTION PREVENTION & CONTROL		TESTING	
P2/N95 respirator/mask	☐	Sterile swabs with plastic or wood shaft	☐
Goggles and/or face shield	☐	PBGS – from District Vet or NSW DPIRD	☐
Coveralls or long-sleeved lab gowns	☐	Eskie and ice brick, cardboard box	☐
Apron	☐	Metrostate courier sticker	☐
Boot covers/boots	☐		
Disposable gloves and work gloves	☐	UN category B – Biological Specimen Label (paper printed is ok)	☐
	☐		☐
	☐	Baggies, absorbent material, disinfectant spray or wipes to double bag and decontaminate samples	☐
		NSW DPIRD specimen advice form in an envelope labelled “Suspect Avian Influenza” – located between eskie and outer box	☐

DISINFECTANTS (Check what you have/will use, you don’t need them all)		COMMUNICATIONS/SIGNAGE	
Step one – detergent and brushes to thoroughly clean	☐	Phone/appointment/clinic entry triage questions	☐
Step two – disinfection:	☐	Client and supplier contact list and template communications	☐
-1% Virkon S™	☐	Signage for outside all clinic entrances and exits	☐
-80% ethanol (10 – 20 minutes contact time)	☐	Staff safety and training handouts	☐
-60-90% isopropyl alcohol (20 minutes)	☐	Quarantine signage	☐
-1% sodium hypochlorite (200mL of 5% solution into 800mL water, 10-30 minutes)	☐	Hand washing and hygiene signage	☐
-Quaternary ammonium compound, F10 or Safe4™ - combined detergent and disinfectant (10-30 minutes contact time)	☐	PPE Donning and Doffing Sequence Checklist – see H5 bird flu Preparedness Workshop Notes	☐

Protocols/Messaging

Please list any in-house operating procedures, or publicly available resources that may support H5 bird flu preparedness and response. Consider pre-developing procedures and communiques that are required now that H5 bird flu has arrived in Australia.

Protocols/Messaging	Resources
H5 bird flu Public messaging – NSW DPIRD	www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/dpi/biosecurity/animal-biosecurity/avian-influenza
H5 bird flu NSW DPIRD Fact Sheets, Posters, Signage	www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/dpi/biosecurity/animal-biosecurity/avian-influenza/resources-for-h5-bird-flu-preparedness
H5 bird flu Public messaging – NSW Health	NSW Health Avian Influenza Fact Sheet www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/factsheets/Pages/avian-influenza.aspx
	NSW Health Be Careful Around Wildlife: Protect Yourself www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/factsheets/Pages/be-careful-around-wildlife.aspx
H5 bird flu – Real-time messaging about biosecurity emergencies. Apple or Android phone app.	NSW BioResponse App www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/dpi/biosecurity/emergency-management/bioresponse-nsw
H5 bird flu – Messaging specific to the operation of veterinary clinics	Veterinary Practitioners Board of NSW – NEWS www.vpb.nsw.gov.au/news
H5 bird flu Distribution mapping nationally	AviFluMap: Tool Launched to Support Australia's Response to H5 Bird Flu in Wild Birds https://hpairisk.deakin.edu.au/
H5 bird flu Reporting suspect cases	Emergency Animal Disease Hotline - 1800 675 888 for high-risk events To report lower risk events, or large numbers of mortalities, an online form can be completed via: https://forms.bfs.dpi.nsw.gov.au/forms/23970
National toolkit regarding H5 bird flu	Interim Australian Centre for Disease Control Bird Flu Toolkit - www.cdc.gov.au/resources/publications/bird-flu-toolkit-people-who-work-birds
National guidelines regarding H5 bird flu	National Guidelines for avian influenza: protecting people who work with birds and wildlife www.health.gov.au/sites/default/files/2024-12/cdna-national-guidelines-for-avian-influenza-protecting-people-who-work-with-birds-and-wildlife_0.pdf
H5 bird flu Protocols for exposed staff	Complete a hazard/risk register
H5 bird flu Protocols for exposed staff who become sick	Contact local NSW Health – Public Health Unit
H5 bird flu Reception and triage protocols	H5 bird flu Preparedness Workshop for Veterinary Professionals - Notes https://arwh.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/HPAI-Preparedness-for-Veterinary-Professional-Workshop-Notes.pdf
H5 bird flu Sample collection, storage and shipping protocols	H5 bird flu Preparedness for Veterinary Professionals - Workshop Notes https://arwh.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/HPAI-Preparedness-for-Veterinary-Professional-Workshop-Notes.pdf

H5 bird flu Disposal of bird carcasses from public and private land - in the absence of H5 bird flu	Disposal of bird carcasses from public and private land: Local Government www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0004/1588828/Disposal-of-bird-carcasses-from-public-and-private-land-Local-Government.pdf Disposal Advice for Public Land Managers, including a risk assessment tool (Appendix) Guidance-for-disposal-of-dead-wildlife-following-the-detection-of-high-pathogenicity-avian-influenza-H5N1-12-2025.pdf Public and Private Land Managers: https://www.dpird.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0004/1588828/Disposal-of-bird-carcasses-from-public-and-private-land-Local-Government.pdf National H5 bird flu – public guidance for carcass disposal: https://www.agriculture.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/public-guidance-disposal-dead-wildlife.pdf National principles for wildlife carcass management, with a management assessment framework (Appendix A) https://www.agriculture.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/national-principles-wildlife-carcass-management.pdf
Cleaning and disinfection guidelines	AUSVETPLAN Operational Manual – Decontamination https://animalhealthaustralia.com.au/wp-content/uploads/dlm_uploads/2024/04/AUSVETPLAN-Operation-Manual-Decontamination-1.pdf
Wildlife rehabilitation codes of practice	NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service Code or Practice for Injured, Sick and Orphaned Protected Fauna Guidelines for wildlife assessment, monitoring, transport, housing, record keeping, euthanasia and release. Be aware that a series of these codes are available, each specific to a taxonomic group of animals. www.environment.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/code-practice-injured-protected-fauna-110004.pdf

Appendix A: Safe Use of Personal Protective Equipment

The recommended Personal protective equipment (PPE) for handling wildlife includes:

- disposable gloves
- overalls or disposable impermeable coveralls
- disposable shoes or shoe covers or washable boots (i.e. gumboots)
- respiratory protection (P2/N95 respirator/mask) and
- eye protection (goggles or face shield).

Donning – "do on" – putting on PPE

Put on PPE in the following order (consider using a buddy system and/or a checklist):

- Perform hand hygiene. Check for any cuts and apply waterproof dressings.
- Put on coveralls.
- Put on boots or shoe covers. Coveralls should be pulled down over boots leaving as little of the boot exposed as possible.
- Put on apron (if used).
- Put on respirator, which should be at minimum, an P2/N95 respirator. Do a fit check to ensure a proper seal has been established see Figure 1.
- Put on eye protection (goggles/face shield).
- Put on single-use disposable gloves.
- Put on reusable, heavy-duty gloves.

Doffing - "do off" – safely removing PPE

- Clean and disinfect boots in the footbath
- Remove outer gloves.
- Decontaminate inner gloves (using an alcohol-based hand sanitiser, a disinfectant wipe or equivalent). #
- Decontaminate and disinfect surfaces, samples, and equipment using a dual-purpose hospital grade cleaning and disinfecting wipe.
- Seal the disinfected samples into a small plastic bag, thoroughly cover the outside of that plastic bag with a dual-purpose wipe.
- Remove apron (if used).
- Remove boots.**
- Remove coveralls.**
- Decontaminate inner gloves (using hand sanitiser, a disinfectant wipe or equivalent). #
- Remove eye protections (face shield, goggles).
- Decontaminate inner gloves (using hand sanitiser, a disinfectant wipe or equivalent). #
- Remove respirator by bending over the rubbish bin, releasing the elastic loops and guiding the mask downwards.
- Remove inner gloves.
- Perform hand hygiene. ^

- Shower, wash hair, and change into clean clothing when possible.

**Sequence of removal may be dependent on the type of coverall and boots used. It may be necessary to step out of coveralls and boots in one motion within the same process.
If inner gloves become visibly soiled, they should be cleaned with an approved disinfectant. Additionally, perform hand hygiene by disinfecting the inner gloves with an alcohol-based hand rub.
^If hands are visibly soiled, wash hands with soap and water. Where hands are not visibly soiled, an approved alcohol-based hand rub with 60-80% ethanol concentration may be used.

In circumstances where all these PPE items are not available or appropriate, NSW Health advises that at a minimum:

- Disposable gloves or gloves that can be disinfected
- Respirator (P2/N95)
- Boots that can be cleaned
- No touch technique (e.g. use of equipment to pick up and dispose of carcass)
- Proper cleaning and disinfection of equipment and materials

Perform hand hygiene, either with alcohol-based hand sanitiser or by washing hands with soap and water if visibly soiled. This should be done regularly – but especially before and after contact with animals/carcasses and their environments. Efforts should be made to avoid touching the nose, eyes or mouth with the hands during work/collecting and disposing of carcasses. Showering and changing into clean clothes after work is also recommended.

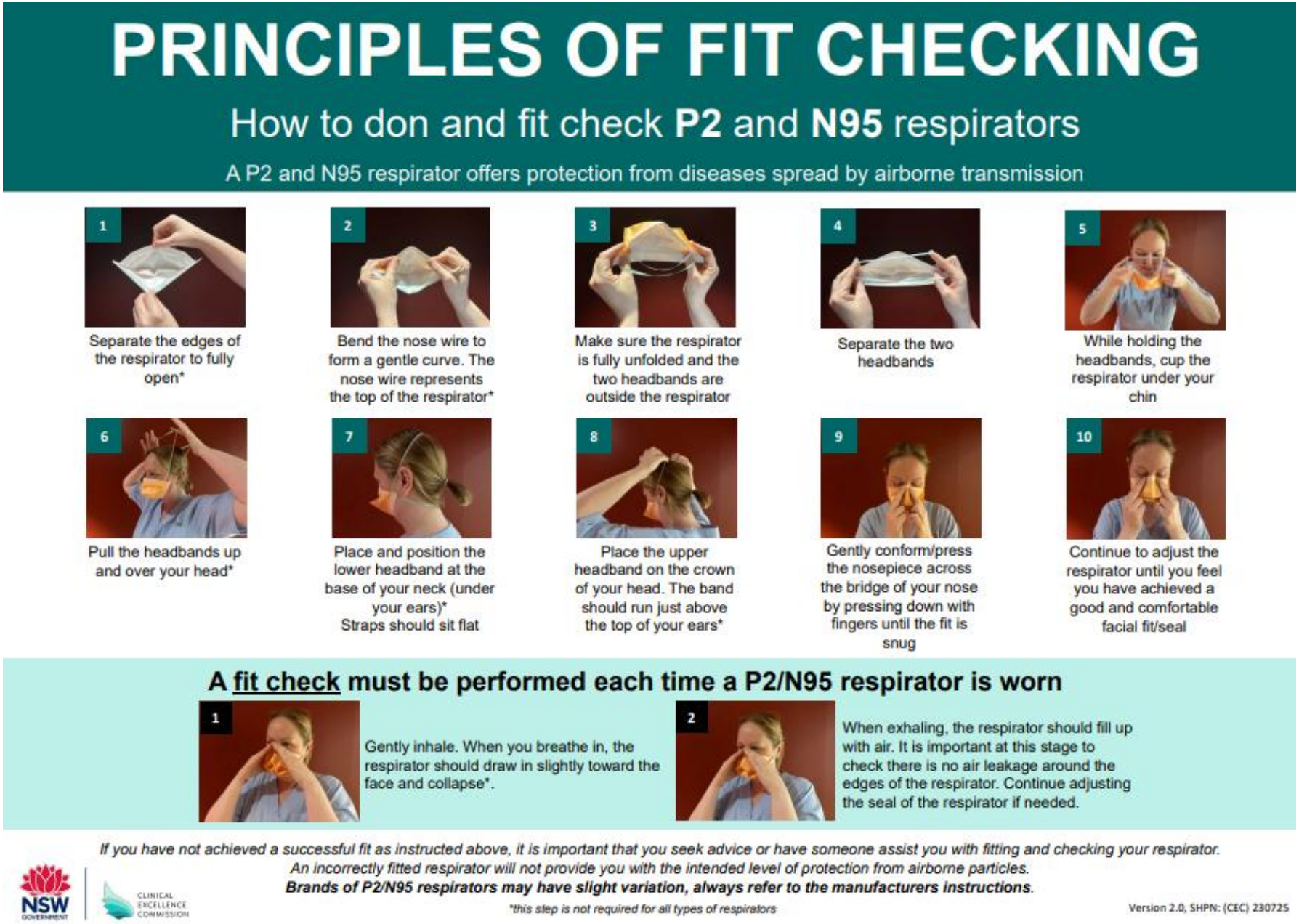


FIGURE 1. PRINCIPLES OF FIT CHECKING POSTER, AVAILABLE FROM NSW HEALTH VIA www.cec.health.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0010/566776/Principles-of-fit-checking.pdf