

**CDC Interim Guidance for Employers to Reduce Exposure to Novel Influenza A (Such as H5N1 Bird Flu) for People Working With or Exposed to Animals**

READ MORE: [https://www.cdc.gov/bird-flu/prevention/worker-protection-ppe.html#cdc\\_generic\\_section\\_5-personal-protective-equipment](https://www.cdc.gov/bird-flu/prevention/worker-protection-ppe.html#cdc_generic_section_5-personal-protective-equipment)

The [hierarchy of controls](#) identifies a preferred order of actions to best control hazardous workplace exposures. Engineering controls are more effective than administrative controls or PPE because they control exposures without requiring significant and ongoing efforts by workers and their supervisors. The following table identifies the type of controls that can be used based on our current understanding of the exposure risk associated with different work tasks and settings.

Work task/Setting	Exposure level	Engineering controls*	Administrative controls*	Personal protective equipment*
<p>Contact with alive or dead animals confirmed or potentially infected (e.g., poultry culling operations, work in sick pens)<sup>f</sup></p> <p>Contact with raw milk, other secretions, udders, or viscera from a farm with confirmed or potentially infected animals (e.g., work in milking parlor, raw milk processing, some slaughter house work)</p>	<b>High exposure</b>	<a href="#">Recommended</a>	<a href="#">Recommended</a>	<a href="#">High Exposure PPE Recommended</a>
<p>Contact with healthy non-lactating animals on a dairy farm that has animals confirmed or potentially infected (dairy farms only)</p> <p>Contact with animals from a farm without confirmed or potentially infected animals, but when there are confirmed or potentially infected animals in the region<sup>‡</sup></p>	<b>Medium exposure</b>	<a href="#">Recommended</a>	<a href="#">Recommended</a>	<a href="#">Medium Exposure PPE Recommended</a>
<p>Contact with healthy animals, with no confirmed cases in the region<sup>‡</sup></p> <p>No contact with animals or animal secretions, regardless of cases on the farm or regional cases</p>	<b>Low exposure</b>	None Recommended	<a href="#">Recommended</a>	None Recommended

*\*This is in addition to standard operating procedures for these settings*

*†Once a positive test result is detected on a poultry farm, all the birds on that farm are considered potentially infected*

*‡CDC recommends using the USDA-defined control area (10 km or ~6.21 mile radius around a farm) as the region. Factors that may justify widening a region include: (1) worker commute distances greater than 10 km from their home or other workplaces, especially other farms, (2) joint services that serve the farm (such as veterinary services, milk haulers, feed supply, and transport companies), (3) other considerations in the [USDA Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Response Plan \(The Red Book\)](#)*