



PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE) AND BIOSECURITY MEASURES DURING WILDLIFE HANDLING (IN THE FIELD, VETERINARY CLINIC OR REHABILITATION CENTRE)

Adapted from the High Pathogenicity Avian Influenza (HPAI) and Wildlife in Australia A RISK MITIGATION TOOLBOX FOR WILDLIFE CARE PROVIDERS – Wildlife Health Australia - Version 1 2024

DURING HANDLING OF WILDLIFE:

- Wear appropriate PPE (e.g. disposable waterproof gloves, facemasks and eye protection), and ensure PPE is removed properly to avoid self-contamination (see Appendix 5 for resources).
- Particular attention should be given to hand washing after handling wildlife, after contact with potentially contaminated materials and after removal of gloves. Hands and arms should be washed with abundant soap and warm water, then dried thoroughly, even if gloves are used. Hand sanitizer (gel with 60% to 90% ethanol concentration) can be applied to reinforce disinfection but should not replace proper handwashing.
- Avoid rubbing eyes or touching the mouth, eating, drinking, or smoking while working with animals or their products.
- Where practicable, handle animals in a well-lit and well-ventilated area to minimise the possibility of inhaling dried faecal, or other, material.
- Use new or appropriately cleaned and disinfected equipment and PPE for handling of each animal.

Any suspicion of HPAI must be reported to the LLS district Veterinarian as per the [DPI guidelines](#).

PPE AND BIOSECURITY MEASURES AFTER WILDLIFE HANDLING (IN THE FIELD OR WCP FACILITY)

After handling of wildlife:

- Clothing, shoes and equipment (e.g. used for capture, handling, marking, holding [e.g. transport boxes/bags]) should be thoroughly cleaned after use, followed by disinfection. There are a range of cleaning and disinfectant agents that are effective against AI viruses which are listed in [AUSVETPLAN Operational Manual: Decontamination](#). The [WOAH & IUCN Wildlife Health Specialist Group Avian Influenza and Wildlife: Risk management for people working with wild birds document](#) also contains succinct information on cleaning and disinfectant agents for HPAI.
- Waste material (e.g. disposable equipment or PPE) should be disposed of appropriately.
- Anyone who has handled wildlife should avoid contact with domestic birds and poultry for 48 hours and should avoid visiting multiple sites in one day.

BIOSECURITY CONSIDERATIONS FOR WCP FACILITIES

As well as the PPE measures, hand hygiene and equipment hygiene measures described above, wildlife care facilities (including those in private homes) should also consider facility

hygiene measures, facility design and workflow practices to minimise the risk posed by infectious diseases such as HPAI. Baseline measures include:

- Quarantine or isolation facilities for new admissions or wildlife suspected of having an infectious disease
- keeping the work environment clean and tidy
- cleaning spills of blood and other bodily substances
- cleaning and disinfecting (or safely disposing of) equipment after use
- appropriate management and disposal of waste material (including animal, food, water and clinical waste)
- appropriate management of laundry (bedding, towels and worker clothing)
- safe use and disposal of sharps such as needles and scalpel blades, as well as knives for food preparation
- managing accidental exposures to blood and body substances, as well as animal bites, scratches and sharps injuries.

APPENDIX 5

SEQUENCE FOR PUTTING ON PPE

HAND HYGIENE

- Perform hand hygiene



GOWN

- Fully cover torso from neck to knees, arms to end of wrists, and wrap around the back
- Fasten at the back of neck and waist



MASK or RESPIRATOR

- Secure ties or elastic bands at middle of head and neck



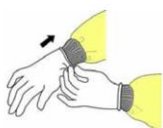
PROTECTIVE EYEWEAR OR FACE SHIELD

- Place over face and eyes and adjust to fit



GLOVES

- Extend to cover wrist of isolation gown

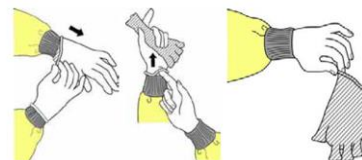


Note that for surgical procedures and dentistry, the sequence for putting on PPE differs. In these situations, masks and protective eyewear are applied first prior to hand preparation. Gown and gloves are then put on.

SEQUENCE FOR REMOVING PPE

GLOVES

- **Outside of glove is contaminated!**
- Grasp outside of glove with opposite gloved hand; peel off
- Hold removed glove in gloved hand
- Slide fingers of ungloved hand under remaining glove at wrist
- Peel glove off over first glove
- Discard gloves in waste container
- Perform hand hygiene



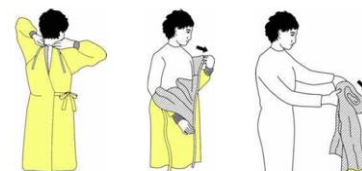
PROTECTIVE EYEWEAR OR FACE SHIELD

- **Outside of eye protection or face shield is contaminated!**
- To remove, handle by head band or ear pieces
- Place in designated receptacle for reprocessing or in waste container



GOWN

- **Gown front and sleeves are contaminated!**
- Unfasten ties
- Pull away from neck and shoulders, touching inside of gown only
- Turn gown inside out
- Fold or roll into a bundle and discard



MASK or RESPIRATOR

- **Front of mask is contaminated – DO NOT TOUCH!**
- Grasp bottom, then top ties or elastics and remove
- Discard in waste container
- Perform hand hygiene



Perform hand hygiene immediately after removing all PPE

Resource 3 – Australian Veterinary Association Guidelines for Veterinary Personal Biosecurity.

Source: Australian guidelines for the prevention and control of infection in healthcare, adapted from <http://www.cdc.gov/hicpac/2007ip/2007isolationprecautions.html>, and used with permission.

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CITATIONS

- <https://www.ava.com.au/library-journals-and-resources/ava-other-resources/veterinary-personal-biosecurity/>
- High Pathogenicity Avian Influenza (HPAI) and Wildlife in Australia A RISK MITIGATION TOOLBOX FOR WILDLIFE CARE PROVIDERS – Wildlife Health Australia - Version 1 2024