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Dear Clinicians,

Veterinarians are the only professionals trained to link animal diseases, human diseases, food-safety, and bioterrorism agents. Six of the seven Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Critical Biological Agents "Category A" diseases are diseases common to both animals and humans. All veterinarians take an oath that includes the professional responsibility for using their scientific knowledge and skills to benefit society, promote public health, and advance medical knowledge. The Institute of Medicine defines public health as "what we, as a society, do collectively to assure the conditions in which people can be healthy."

As director of the New River Health District, I have done a lousy job reaching out to you, our veterinarian colleagues, to keep you abreast of research, training and practice information which may benefit you and your community.

Vet Notes is an attempt to do better at engaging you, our public health partners, in topics of mutual interest.

Please let me, or any of your contributor colleagues, know your thoughts, topics of interest and, of course, pass this newsletter along to any of your colleagues. We want to serve you!

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[APHIS Notes from the Field: Avian Flu, by Lynette Tobias](#)

Avian influenza refers to infection of birds with avian influenza Type A viruses. These viruses occur naturally among wild aquatic birds worldwide and can infect domestic poultry and other bird and animal species. Avian influenza A viruses are classified into two broad categories: low pathogenic avian influenza (LPAI) A viruses, and highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI).

Since it was first identified in the United States in December 2014, in the Pacific Northwest, HPAI has been detected in commercial and backyard poultry flocks, wild birds, or captive wild birds in 21 States. A total of 211 commercial and 21 backyard poultry premises were affected. This

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- [Reportable diseases](#) within 24 hours of diagnosis and
- Exposure to chemical, biological or radiological events.

resulted in the depopulation of 7.5 million turkeys and 42.1 million chickens, with devastating effects on these businesses, and a cost to Federal taxpayers of over \$950 million, making this the largest animal disease outbreak in U.S. history.

No human infections with these viruses have been detected at this time. While human infections are possible, infection with avian influenza viruses in general are rare and – when they occur – these viruses have not spread easily to other people. The CDC considers the risk to people from these HPAI viruses to be low at this time.

The United States has the strongest AI surveillance program in the world, and the USDA is working with its partners to actively look for the disease in commercial poultry operations, live bird markets and in migratory wild bird populations. As part of the wild bird surveillance effort, APHIS and its wildlife agency partners will be sampling more than 40,000 wild birds between July 1, 2015 and July 1, 2016 – with more than 24,000 samples already tested with no isolations of HPAI made.

No HPAI has been identified in any commercial or backyard poultry since June 17, 2015. On November 18, USDA reported to the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) that all cases of HPAI in commercial poultry have been resolved and that the US is again free of HPAI.

In addition to practicing good biosecurity, all bird owners should prevent contact between their birds and wild birds and report sick birds or unusual bird deaths to State/Federal officials, either through their state veterinarian or through USDA's toll-free number at 1-866-536-7593.

For more information visit the [USDA avian influenza page](#) and the [USDA APHIS avian influenza page](#). For more information on avian influenza and wild birds, please visit the [USGS National Wildlife Health Center website](#).

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News from our State Veterinarian, Julia Murphy

Quick reference resources to assist veterinarians with rabies prevention and exposure response are now available through the Virginia Department of Health's (VDH) "Rabies for Animal Healthcare Providers" website

at: <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/epidemiology/DEE/Rabies/rahp.htm>.

These references include answers to commonly asked questions about rabies as well as algorithms and brief guidance documents that address topics such as domestic animal rabies exposure response and rabies clinics. Also available at this site is a link to the final language associated

with Virginia's rabies regulations. These regulations, in part, provide for an exemption to rabies vaccinations for dogs and cats "if a vaccination would likely endanger the animal's life due to a previously diagnosed disease or other previously documented medical considerations as documented by a licensed veterinarian." A guidance document, which discusses the language of the law associated with exemptions and examples of certain conditions for which an exemption may be appropriate, has been developed to assist veterinarians with the process of rabies vaccine exemptions. Veterinarians contemplating applying for an exemption should first review the guidance document available at <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/epidemiology/DEE/Rabies/rahp.htm> and contact their local health department for more specific instructions if they are interested in submitting an application. Veterinarians are also encouraged to review the definitions section of these new regulations which, in part, defines the terms "rabies vaccination certificate" and "suspected rabid animal" and contact their local health departments if they have questions about any of the regulatory language. A directory of local health departments can be found at <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/LHD/index.htm>.

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[Veterinary Infection Control Plans-More Than Just Standard of Care, by Bill Pierson](#)

When Infection Control Plans (ICPs) are mentioned, you should immediately think: prevention of hospital acquired infections. A written, executed and enforced plan is now considered "Standard of Care" and the absence of one, possible malpractice! That said; there is another side to ICPs that should peak your interest.

The National Occupational Research Agenda (NORA), a partnership between the private and public sectors and the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) is currently looking at employee health issues associated with the practice of veterinary medicine. NORA researches, NIOSH recommends and ultimately, OSHA regulates. According to [Veterinary Practice News](#), the OSHA fine for a single act of negligence potentially endangering the health of an employee is \$7,000. A good ICP protects your patients, employees, and you! And, although the authority of OSHA may stop at the workplace, your liability may not.

Consider what could happen if a member of an employee's family or someone with whom you fostered a pet develops a zoonotic infection traceable back to your practice. Without a written, executed and

enforced ICP, you could be facing legal action.

Take time to brush-up on common zoonoses and create or update your ICP. The National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians has some great resources: Compendium of Veterinary Standard Precautions for Zoonotic Disease Prevention in Veterinary Personnel and Model Infection Control Plan for Veterinary Practices at <http://nasphv.org/documentsCompendia.html>. If you would like some one-on-one advice, feel free to contact Dr. Bill Pierson at Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine pierson@vt.edu.

Communicable Disease Control

Attached is the list of Rapidly Reportable Diseases for Virginia Veterinarians.

Rabies

Rabies Data to Date, 2015 totals: 11 animals from 4 species tested positive for rabies involving 513 case investigations for human exposure, resulting in 67 persons who received rabies post-exposure prophylaxis.

A recent MPH student survey of over one thousand pet owners visiting an active veterinary practice in New River revealed 610 respondents believed there was a test for human rabies, 350 did not know the symptoms of rabies and over 200 respondents did not know farm animals could contract rabies.

For any animal bite, please call me or my staff for assistance if you are unsure about the risk of rabies. The after hours emergency contact number to the left of this text can be used ANY time to report rabies exposure as the pager is always on and attached to a trained member of our response team.

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For your reference, I've attached the list of reportable diseases for veterinarians in Virginia. Here's wishing you a wonderful 2016,

Molly O'Dell, MD, MFA
Medical Director
To subscribe, please [email](#) us

Reportable Disease List- Virginia

Rapidly Reportable Diseases- Reportable within 24 hours of Suspicion of Disease Foreign Animal Diseases in **BOLD**

Any Species

- Anthrax (*Bacillus anthracis*)
- Botulism (except in equines)
- Brucellosis – all types
- Crimean Congo Hemorrhagic Fever**
- Foot and Mouth Disease**
- Heartwater (*Cowdria ruminantium*)**
- Japanese Encephalitis**
- Melioidosis (*Burkholderia pseudomallei*)
- Plague (*Yersinia pestis*)
- Pseudorabies
- New and Old World Screwworm**
- Q Fever (*Coxiella burnetti*)
- Rabies
- Rift Valley Fever**
- Rinderpest**
- Tuberculosis
- Tularemia (*Francisella tularensis*)
- Vesicular disease of any type** (including Vesicular Stomatitis)
- West Nile Virus

Unknown/Unusual Disease Occurrences

- Acute increase in abortions
- Acute increase in mortality
- Outbreaks of non-neonatal diarrhea
- Unusual occurrence of disease

Avian

- Avian Chlamydiosis (*Chlamydophila psittaci*)
- Avian Infectious Bronchitis (Arkansas strain)
- Avian Infectious Laryngotracheitis
- Avian Influenza –Highly Pathogenic (any H5 or H7)**
- Avian Influenza- Low Pathogenic (non H5 and H7)
- Duck Virus Enteritis
- Duck Virus Hepatitis**
- Exotic Newcastle Disease

- Pullorum (*Salmonella pullorum*)
- Salmonella enteritidis (SE)**

Bovine

- Babesiosis (*Babesia bovis, B. bigemina*)**
- Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy
- Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia (*Mycoplasma mycoides mycoides*)**
- Hemorrhagic Septicemia (*Pasteurella multocida*, serotypes B/Asian or E/African)**
- Lumpy Skin Disease**
- Malignant Catarrhal Fever (African form, Wildebeest associated)**
- Malignant Catarrhal Fever (Sheep associated, OHV)
- Theileriosis (*Theileria annulata, T. parva*)**
- Trypanosomosis**

Camelid

- African Horse Sickness**
- African Swine Fever**
- Camelpox**
- Classical Swine Fever**
- Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia (*Mycoplasma mycoides mycoides*)**
- Peste Des Petits Ruminants virus**

Caprine

- Contagious Agalactia**
- Contagious Caprine Pleuropneumonia (*Mycoplasma capricolum capripneumoniae*)**
- Nairobi Sheep Disease
- Peste Des Petits Ruminants virus**

Caprine (continued)

- Scabies
- Scrapie
- Sheep Pox and Goat Pox**

Equine

- African Horse Sickness**
- Contagious equine metritis (*Taylorella equigenitalis*)**
- Dourine (*Trypanosoma equiperdum*)**
- Equine infectious anemia
- Equine leucoencephalomalacia
- Equine Piroplasmosis
- Equine Viral Neurologic Diseases (including EHV, WNV, and Equine Encephalidities such as EEE, WEE, VEE)
- Glanders (*Burkholderia mallei*)**
- Surra (*Trypanosoma evansi*)**

Ovine

- Enzootic Abortion of Ewes (Ovine psittacosis)
- Nairobi Sheep Disease**
- Ovine Epididymitis (*Brucella ovis* infection)
- Peste Des Petits Ruminants virus**
- Scabies
- Scrapie
- Sheep Pox and Goat Pox**

Porcine

- African swine fever**
- Brucellosis (*Brucella suis*)
- Classical Swine Fever (Hog Cholera)
- Nipah virus encephalitis
- Swine vesicular disease
- Trichinellosis (*Trichinella spiralis*)**

Reportable Disease List- Virginia

Diseases Reportable by the 5th of the Following Month

Multiple Species

- Bluetongue
- Echinococcosis/Hydatidosis
- Giardiasis
- Leptospirosis
- Neosporosis
- Paratuberculosis (Johne's Disease)
- Salmonellosis (any other than avian pullorum and SE)

Avian

- Avian Mycoplasmosis (*Mycoplasma gallisepticum*)
- Avian Tuberculosis (*Mycobacterium avium*)
- Fowl Cholera (*Pasteurella multocida*)
- Fowl Typhoid (*Salmonella gallinarum*)

Bovine

- Anaplasmosis
- Bovine Genital Campylobacteriosis (*Campylobacter fetus venerealis*)
- Bovine Virus Diarrhea virus
- Enzootic Bovine Leukosis
- Infectious Bovine Rhinotracheitis/Infectious Pustular Vulvovaginitis
- Psoroptic Mange
- Trichomonosis (*Tritrichomonas foetus*)

Camelid

- Anaplasmosis
- Bovine Virus Diarrhea virus
- Equine Rhinopneumonitis (EHV-1)
- Strangles (*Streptococcus equi*)

Caprine

- Caprine Arthritis/Encephalitis

Equine

- Botulism
- Equine influenza
- Equine rhinopneumonitis (EHV-1 and EHV-4)
- Equine viral arteritis (EVA)
- Strangles (*Streptococcus equi*)

Ovine

- Maedi-Visna/Ovine Progressive Pneumonia

Porcine

- Cysticercosis
- Erysipelas
- Mange (Sarcoptic)
- Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome (PRRS)
- Salmonellosis
- Transmissible Gastroenteritis (TGE)