

Subject: Personal Protective Equipment for Bird Flu

To All:

FYI - From ERC's "Safety Tip of the Week" at www.ercweb.com and Cal OSHA.

Gary

Personal Protective Equipment for Bird Flu

Avian influenza is a highly contagious and often serious disease among birds. In recent years, there has been evidence of transmission of "highly pathogenic" strains to people who have close contact with infected birds. Employees who have been identified as being at risk of infection during avian influenza outbreaks have included poultry workers, veterinarians, animal inspectors, and workers involved in managing, culling, or disposing of infected birds. Cal/OSHA has developed [a matrix](http://www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/doshreg/AIPPE_matrix_DoshReg.pdf) (http://www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/doshreg/AIPPE_matrix_DoshReg.pdf) for guiding employers in the development of protective measures for employees, including personal protective equipment (PPE). The type and level of recommended protection are based on the likelihood that birds are infected, the type of work to be performed, and the context of the work operation. This matrix can be used as a planning guide. If there is an outbreak, recommendations may change as more is learned about how the specific viral strain is transmitted and controlled.

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