

CDC's role is to provide guidance and support to our state public health partners who play a critical role in public health response efforts. The dairy industry represents a new sector within U.S. agriculture exposed to this virus, and CDC is in the process of building new relationships and the trust needed to have uniform access to developments in the field, across every impacted state and to provide support where and when needed. That work is urgent and underway. It is imperative that we curtail the opportunities for A(H5N1) viruses to spread further and evolve to pose a greater risk to the public's health. Protecting public health, and in this situation in particular, the health of the people at greatest risk of infection, is a vital priority, and testing is critical in the long term to stay ahead of avian flu. Our primary objective is to ensure the health and safety of all individuals, including agricultural workers, while working closely with state public health partners to address emerging health concerns.

- We have been preparing for avian flu outbreaks for more than two decades, not to mention the CDC's robust monitoring capabilities of other outbreaks. The CDC team that monitors for foodborne illnesses and regularly investigates outbreaks linked to milk has been working with state and local partners and has not detected any concerning activity linked to milk.
- CDC constantly monitors clinical laboratory testing data, and so far, has not identified any unusual or concerning patterns at the national, the state, or local levels.
- Preliminary genetic analysis suggests that two existing CVVs would offer protection against the virus that was isolated. Manufacturers could use these building blocks to make a vaccine if needed.
- CDC is maintaining multilingual and multidisciplinary epidemiological field teams ready to deploy to support on-site studies when requested.
- Since March 2024, more than 220 people have been monitored for A(H5N1) after relevant exposures and at least 30 people have been tested.
- CDC's current risk assessment of H5N1 bird flu for the general public health remains low. We remain vigilant and ready to adapt our response as needed.