

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND EXTENSION

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Keeping Our Chickens Healthy



Telephone:

**No Admittance
Without Owner
Permission**

UNIVERSITY OF
MARYLAND
EXTENSION



Resources

www.extension.umd.edu/poultry

[https://mda.maryland.gov/
AnimalHealth/Pages/poultry.aspx](https://mda.maryland.gov/AnimalHealth/Pages/poultry.aspx)

[https://agriculture.delaware.gov/poultry-
animal-health/poultry/](https://agriculture.delaware.gov/poultry-animal-health/poultry/)

**Small Flock
Biosecurity:
Something to
Crow About!**

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PROTECT YOUR FLOCK

- Keep unnecessary people off your farm and out of coops
 - Lock gates
 - Use fences and signs to keep unapproved visitors out of areas where birds are kept
- Do not allow visitors in or near poultry coops
- Do not visit other poultry farms
 - When visiting friends and family who raise commercial or backyard poultry, stay away from the areas where the poultry are housed or pastured, spray shoes with disinfectant when leaving and change your clothes when you return home. *It is also a good idea to shower prior to tending your own flock.
- Use designated boots for tending your flock
 - Rubber boots are waterproof and easily disinfected

CLOTHING

- Essential visitors must wear protective clothing when entering the coop or any area poultry is kept
 - Disposable boots, hair nets, gloves and coveralls should be kept on hand
 - All protective clothing should be disposed of on farm when the visitor leaves
- After returning home from work or running errands, change your clothes completely and wash hands and arms before tending your flock
- Disinfect your cell phone regularly
- Hunters who come into contact with wild birds should shower and change clothes before coming into contact with poultry

PESTS

- Keep wild birds and pests out of coops
- Control rodents
- Keep feed in containers with lids
- Clean up spilled feed



EQUIPMENT

- Clean off any manure and dirt and disinfect equipment prior to bringing it on the farm and again as it leaves the farm

SICK BIRDS

- Have sick birds examined by a veterinarian
- Veterinarians at your state animal health laboratory can perform a necropsy to determine the cause of death in backyard poultry
- Consult with your extension agent or Department of Agriculture if you have multiple sick birds or suspicious deaths

DEAD BIRDS

- Promptly remove and properly dispose of dead birds
 - Poor disposal can lead to disease and increase the number of flies and scavengers

REGULATIONS

- Backyard poultry must be registered with the Department of Agriculture in your state
- Local zoning regulations may prohibit poultry in certain areas