

GEORGIA LOW PATHOGENIC AVIAN INFLUENZA H5 and H7 INITIAL STATE RESPONSE AND CONTAINMENT PLAN (ISRCP)

FEBRUARY 2022 pending USDA approval

The initial response to Avian Influenza is the same for LPAI and HPAI and focuses on diagnostics and biocontainment. Many forms and guidance documents are now available from USDA and have been updated as applicable in this 2022 version of the GA LPAI plan. If the event is confirmed as HPAI, the state of GA, working with USDA, will follow the Red Book and the Secure Poultry Plans in addition to any pertinent information and procedures included in this plan. If the event is a non H5/H7 virus, we will follow a GA non H5/H7 plan (separate document).

This Plan (“The Plan”) applies to H5 and H7 LPAI in commercial and backyard poultry in GA. It follows the Components 1 through 14 of VS Guidance 8601.2. The Plan can be modified as the outbreak unfolds if such changes are approved by the SAHO and/or a simple majority of the state PTAC. Abbreviations and acronyms in the plan are:

DEFINITIONS AND ACRONYMS

AI: Avian Influenza	MAK: Modified Atmosphere Killing
AGID: Agar Gel Immunodiffusion	MOU: Memorandum of Understanding
APHIS: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service	NAHLN: National Animal Health Laboratory Network
AVMA: American Veterinary Medical Association	NPIC: National Program Incident Coordination
AVIC: Area Veterinarian in Charge (USDA)	NPPI: National Poultry Improvement Plan
BHI: Brain Heart Infusion (broth)	NVS: National Veterinary Stockpile
BSZ: Backyard Surveillance Zone (3 km)	NVSL: National Veterinary Services Laboratory
BSL3: Bio safety Level 3 (Lab)	OP: Oro-pharyngeal (swabs)
C&D: Cleaning and Disinfection	OSA: Official State Agency
CO: Communications Officer	PCP: Premise Control Point
CO2: Carbon Dioxide	PCR: Polymerase Chain Reaction (short for rRT-PCR or Real time reverse transcriptase PCR)
CSZ: Commercial Surveillance Zone (10 km)	PIO: Public Information Officer
DNR: Department of Natural Resources	PPE: Personal Protective Equipment
ELISA: Enzyme Linked Immunosorbent Assay	PTAC: Poultry Technical Advisory Committee, “The Committee”
EPI: USDA poultry epidemiologist	SAHO: State Animal Health Official (State Vet)
FAD PREP: Foreign Animal Disease Preparation	SEDMC: Standing Emergency Disease Management Committee (referred to as PTAC in document)
GA: Georgia	STA: State Testing Area
GDA: Georgia Department of Agriculture	SIT REP: Situation Report
GIS: Geographic Information Systems	SME: Subject Matter Expert
GPF: Georgia Poultry Federation	STA: State Testing Area
GPLN: Georgia Poultry Laboratory Network	VE: Virus Elimination
HPAI: Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza	VLT: Vaccinal Laryngotracheitis
H5, H7: Hemagglutinin 5 or 7	VS: Veterinary Services
IC: Incident Commander	VSD+: Ventilation Shutdown + CO2
ICS: Incident Command System	USDA: United States Department of Agriculture
IDIQ: Accounting system for NAHLN	
ISRCP: GA H5/H7 Initial State Response and Containment Plan “The Plan”	
LPAI: Low Pathogenic Avian Influenza	

Very useful information is found on the FAD PREP USDA website:

https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/emergency-management/ct_fadprep

1. STANDING EMERGENCY DISEASE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (SEDMC)

1. **PTAC:** GA has a standing Poultry Technical Advisory Committee (PTAC).
 - a. Cell phone numbers and email addresses are updated annually or as needed.
 - b. In an AI event, the SAHO, AVIC, EPI, and the president of the GPF are all ad hoc members. The Executive Director of GPLN chairs the PTAC and serves as communications officer (CO).
 - c. The contact lists within the Plan are updated annually.
 - d. The PTAC meets during the year and regularly communicates about disease control (Bronchitis, Mycoplasma, VLT).
 - e. PTAC meets to discuss the Plan every time it is updated (usually yearly or as needed).
 - f. Contact information for GPLN in [Annex 1a](#), GDA in [Annex 1b](#), USDA is found in [Annex 1c](#) Exercises of the Plan and/or its specific components are scheduled as needed.

2. COMMUNICATION PLAN

- a. With a presumptive positive result, the information is given by GPLN to the affected company, SAHO, EPI, NAHLN, NVSL and AVIC while the results are being confirmed.
- b. Notification of the poultry industry of the first confirmed positive case is done by SAHO or delegate (email/conference call).
- c. Event information is assembled into the Situation Report and distributed as needed by GDA. GPLN ensures that the information is channeled to the industry (CO is also the industry liaison in GA).
- d. During an event, conference calls are initiated and conducted every day, or as needed, by the SAHO or the IC and involve those responsible for the different aspects of the response.
- e. Information for press releases flows from GPF/GPLN/Industry/IC to GDA for dissemination.
- f. Secure information flow: GDA is responsible for release of all public messaging and will work with industry, state and federal partners to ensure one consistent message is relayed to the public through traditional and new media channels.

Annexes for Section 1:

1a: GPLN and Lab contacts

1b: GDA contacts

1c: USDA contacts

2. MINIMUM BIOSECURITY PLAN FOLLOWED BY ALL COMMERCIAL PRODUCERS

The 14 NPIP Biosecurity principles are implemented on GA commercial farms. Every company has a written biosecurity program and has been pre-audited or audited by GPLN. Below is a list of minimum biosecurity requirements.

MINIMUM FARM BIOSECURITY FOR ALL PRODUCERS

1. The company has a biosecurity officer and a written biosecurity plan.
2. Everyone entering the farm has been trained on biosecurity procedures.
3. There is a line of separation between the outside and every entrance to bird space (foot pan or dedicated farm footwear).
4. There are clear signage and procedures for entering and leaving the perimeter of the farm.
5. The employees have personal protective equipment. It is also available for visitors and contractors.
6. There are control programs in place for rodents, wild birds, wild animals and insects.
7. Only clean vehicles and equipment are used on the farm.
8. Dead birds are collected and disposed of in a manner to limit disease spread between farms.
9. Manure and litter are removed, stored and disposed of in a manner to limit disease spread between farms.
10. Pullets and spike males are from clean sources and transported through clean logistics.
11. Water for cooling and drinking comes from clean or treated water sources.
12. Feed and new shavings are handled to avoid contamination from wild birds. Feed spills are picked up.
13. The grower notifies the company when the birds are sick, experience unexplained mortality or production drop.
14. The company biosecurity program is audited for compliance.

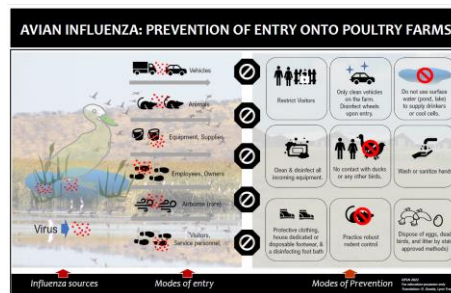
Posters have been produced for use on farms and are available to all producers as needed for training and compliance.



Biosecurity poster



AI poster (2015)



AI poster (2022)

No annexes for Section 2

3. PROVISIONS FOR ADEQUATE DIAGNOSTIC RESOURCES

GA NPIP Laboratory:

GPLN is the only NPIP authorized laboratory in GA. The only exception is that some integrators share some of the testing per MOUs with GPLN.

Testing in GA for out-of-state companies:

GPLN will notify the GA SAHO and the other State OSA of any presumptive positive results from a farm for that state. The GA SAHO will communicate with the other state SAHO. That state should follow up with their own confirmation and response.

Testing GA flocks by out-of-state labs:

There are MOUs in place for some GA companies to do part of their own testing at other states' authorized laboratories (mainly industry labs). These MOUs include a clause for immediate reporting back to GPLN of any presumptive positive result on a GA farm.

There are 3 NAHLN Labs in GA with high surge capacity:

- *Georgia Poultry Laboratory Network (NAHLN): (770) 766-6810 (PCR AI run daily: 50)*
- *Athens Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (NAHLN): (706) 542-5568 (Wildlife AI samples)*
- *Tifton Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (NAHLN): (229) 386-3340*

FEDERAL REFERENCE LABORATORY: NVSL: (515) 663-7212

	GPLN	AVDL	TVDL
Thermocyclers	4	4	3
BSL3 space	Yes (2014)	Yes	yes
Extraction stations	4	5	2
Trained techs-extraction	6	6	5
Trained techs-PCR	6	6	5
#PCR/day	750	800	720
Techs for media/set up	5	5	0
Techs for AGID reading	3	N/A	N/A
AGID/day	1000	N/A	N/A

The GA industry is reminded often of sample collection procedures and is provided with sampling kits as needed. The NVSL sampling protocol is in FAD PREP.

GPLN is the main lab receiving samples during an event. The SAHO may choose to direct samples to the different GA NAHLN Labs (backyard flock samples vs. commercial samples, North vs. South for example), depending on volume, geography and overflow needs.

No annexes for Section 3

4. PROCEDURES FOR INITIAL HANDLING & INVESTIGATION OF SUSPECT CASES

GPLN reminds the poultry industry of AI risks by sending information about wildlife findings, cases diagnosed in other states and reminders of springtime risks; the industry submits samples when flocks have clinical signs that could be AI: production drops and high unexplained mortality (protocol available at GPLN). GA's surveillance protocol is the following:

GA ACTIVE SURVEILLANCE:

Broilers: 11/flock within 21 days of processing

Breeders: 15/flock every 90 days and 21 days before slaughter

Layers: 15/flock before each movement

GA PASSIVE SURVEILLANCE:

All cases of birds (over 14 days) submitted alive to the laboratory for any reason get an AI ELISA test on blood and serology and AI PCR on OP swabs.

HANDLING OF A PRESUMPTIVE POSITIVE RESULT

A flock with a presumptive positive result is one from which one or more samples is (are):

- *Positive on serology (AGID) at GPLN, not yet confirmed by NVSL*
- *Detected on PCR at NAHLN Lab, not yet confirmed at NVSL – The NAHLN lab will also run the H5 and H7 PCR*

- a. NAHLN and NVSL are notified of the arrival of samples to NVSL.
- b. Presumptive positive original samples (AGID or PCR) are sent overnight to NVSL (use portal online [Annex 4b](#) or use Submission form found in [Annex 4a](#)). The same procedure is followed if the samples are from a farm outside of GA.
- c. A call is made to the AVIC, EPI and SAHO as soon as an actionable result (high number of screening positives or presumptive positive results) is obtained at the laboratory. [Annex 4d](#) (preliminary flock information) is filled by GPLN. It has information about the flock and is shared with the SAHO, AVIC, and EPI.
- d. GPLN lets the company/owner know of the presumptive positive result, GPLN sends [Annex 4c](#) to company by email for a Company Isolation (No quarantine yet unless needed in the case of an uncooperative grower or private owner).
- e. For confirmation, GPLN arranges for a farm visit as soon as possible (same day) and takes 30 blood samples/farm (if not enough or non-existent at first sampling). If blood samples are already in the lab from the first sampling, it may be decided that only swabs are taken. Priority is given to suspect and adjacent houses. In addition, a minimum of 20 swabs/house (2 pools of 10 sick and dead birds as priority) are taken. If insufficient numbers of dead and sick birds are found, sample a minimum of 20 normal birds/house). Pre-made sampling kits are available at GPLN and used. A preliminary epidemiological investigation with the grower is started at the time of the diagnostic sampling. Information about epidemiological contacts is shared with GDA within 48 hours of that farm visit.

- f. Follow-up (confirmation) samples (BHI pools and serum) are duplicated (or split), resulting in 2 comparable sets of samples. GPLN tests one and ships the duplicated (or split) samples to NVSL for arrival the next morning.
- g. If the follow-up sample test at GPLN and NVSL are negative, and the original sample results are negative at NVSL, the company is notified by GPLN, and the isolation is released: all normal business resumes for the company. The SAHO, EPI and AVIC are notified that the flock has been released from isolation.

[Annex 4a: NVSL Submission form](#)

[Annex 4b: NVSL Portal instructions](#)

[Annex 4c: Company isolation](#)

[Annex 4d: Preliminary flock info](#)

5. TEST REPORTING

- a. Industry personnel are trained to sample cases of high mortality and egg production drops. They receive fresh sampling kits and instructions every spring and/or fall.
- b. An AI Hotline is set up for non-commercial suspect cases.
- c. NPIP approved labs (per MOU) immediately notify GPLN of presumptive positive results on GA farms (tested by labs other than GPLN).
- d. Communication of an NVSL positive result is sent back to the lab, to the AVIC and to the SAHO. GPLN per its industry liaison role, contacts the affected company by phone. The SAHO along with GPF and GPLN then schedules a conference call for the GA Poultry Industry.
- e. The GDA PIO is then responsible for any messaging or press conferences.

No annexes for Section 5

6. QUARANTINE FOR SUSPECT AND CONFIRMED CASES

- Once the case is confirmed as LPAI H5 or H7, GDA places an official quarantine on the premises.
- All identified dangerous contacts are also quarantined.
- The affected farm follows enhanced biosecurity as outlined in [Annex 6a](#).
- All CSZ movements are on hold for a minimum of 24 hours, dependent on results of testing.
- With a non H5 and H7 case, GA follows the “GA Non H5-H7 AI Response Plan” document.

[Annex 6a: Biosecure deliveries and visitors](#)

7. FLOCK PLAN FOR INFECTED AND EXPOSED FLOCKS

When a sample is confirmed positive for LPAI H5 or H7 at NVSL, involved parties do the following:

a. EPI INVESTIGATION

An epidemiological investigation is started by the veterinarian visiting the farm for sampling, and it is completed by a designated poultry veterinarian on a visit within the first week of the diagnosis or as soon as possible. The epidemiological report is submitted to the person responsible for the event (IC if the ICS system is used).

- b. **BIOSECURITY:** [Annex 6a](#) for grower and company, [Annex 7e](#) for decontamination unit
- c. **FLOCK PLAN MEETING:**

Note that for LPAI, NVSL confirmation is required before depopulation starts if indemnity and/or compensation are requested.

1. The grower, company representative, state representative and USDA (including a field reimbursement specialist) have a meeting or phone conversation within 24 hours to make decisions on the disposition of the flock. (Flock Plan – [Annex 7a](#)).
2. Indemnity and Compensation forms are filled: USDA guidance documentation 8603.2 (found in FAD PREP).
3. These forms are sent to the USDA Office in Conyers, Georgia. This signed form is needed for depopulation to proceed if either indemnity or compensation is requested.
4. An appraisal is scheduled as soon as possible and discuss indemnity and compensation:
 - Commercial poultry: Inventory is taken by the GDA site manager – the USDA guidance documents 8603.2 (Found on FAD PREP) are signed by the company and grower and are sent to the USDA Office in Conyers, Georgia. The information will be used by the USDA to fill the VS 1-23. The VS 1-23 is sent back to the IC for the grower and the company to sign.
 - Backyard poultry: A USDA appraiser may be needed; same forms are used.

INDEMNITY is the payment for value of the birds and eggs destroyed, and COMPENSATION is the Reimbursement of response expenses.

USDA's indemnity and compensation for flocks that participate in the NPIP AI monitored program and have passed a biosecurity audit follow a decision tree (FAD PREP) if funds are available. Indemnity and compensation will not be available if birds are depopulated prior to USDA approval.

Compensation reimbursement is based on receipts for depopulation and disposal. For VE, it is a flat rate per square foot as established by USDA.

- d. **FLOCK PLAN FORM:** The following decisions are recorded on the flock plan form:
1. Decide on Euthanasia method (AVMA guidelines). GOAL: Euthanize within 24 hours of NVSL confirmation.
 2. Decide on disposal method (use with GDA guidelines, SME may be requested from USDA).
 3. Decide on Virus Elimination procedure (by grower, company or contractors).
 4. Schedule post VE testing by GPLN.
 5. Note that the flock plan is executed by the site manager, along with an industry site manager.

- e. **RESPONSIBILITIES:** The responsibilities of the 5 main players/roles to enact the Plan are:

GDA:

1. Coordinates the event, activates the Incident Command Structure
2. Requests a declaration of a State of Emergency if needed to bring in resources
3. Assigns an incident commander for the event.
4. If needed, requests a supplemental cooperative agreement (through the AVIC) to assist with state response costs.
5. Communicates with neighboring states about agreeing for testing if overlapping zones
6. Notifies the Commissioner and other state vets (if applicable)
7. Contacts and communicates with AVIC; requests federal resources from AVIC if needed
8. Places a quarantine on the premise and as needed on dangerous contacts and epidemiological links
9. Develops a flock plan along with company and grower
10. Contacts the wildlife service (or DNR) if deemed necessary. The DNR has more intervention authority early in an urgent event.
11. Assigns a site manager
12. Assigns a person responsible for situation report ([Annex 7b](#))
13. May request that non-commercial assemblages that involve poultry in GA be cancelled. May request for free range/organic/pasture birds to be placed inside.
14. Deploys depopulation team, decontamination unit ([Annex 7c](#)), farm security and surveillance team for non-commercial poultry
15. Starts the conveyance document request process

GDA (Site Manager):

1. Establishes communications with the grower and/or company
2. Schedules an onsite meeting with the grower and/or company
3. Meets with the grower and company to establish the quarantine
4. Conducts an onsite Site Evaluation: inventory, condition, staging and takes care of any needs
5. Prepares the Flock Plan along with input from the grower and/or company (Prepare and have parties sign Flock Plan)
6. Follows up with meetings with grower and/or company
7. Communicates with company and grower, GDA Incident Management Team Leadership, GPLN, USDA, and GPF as needed

GPLN (NAHLN Laboratory):

1. Follows up on potential cases by obtaining and testing follow-up samples
2. Ships samples to NVSL
3. Starts epidemiological investigation (form available from GPLN)
4. No “activation” of the state NAHLN lab necessary for LPAI but need to notify the NAHLN coordinator by phone of the confirmation of a LPAI case.
5. If lab funds are needed, SAHO or Lab Director makes a request to the AVIC. If the AVIC agrees and funding is available, reimbursements will be through available supplemental funding.

6. Messaging of results between the state NAHLN lab and the NAHLN office starts after confirmation even if NAHLN does not pay for the tests.
7. Performs tests; makes sure that all authorized parties can access the GPLN portal for real time tracking of submissions and results; submits results for the situation report

GPLN (ICS Roles of Commercial Surveillance and Industry Liaison):

1. Activates the PTAC: Meetings daily or as needed, by phone or in person for situation updates
2. Emails a letter to industry to send to their vendors to inform them of the event.
3. Sends [Annex 11b](#) to Zone companies
4. Deploys additional surveillance kits to industry
5. Coordinates the scheduling for the sample drop off (daily 10:30am and 3:30pm for example) and the need for off-hours testing
6. Activates GIS, draws the Zones, gets all zone farm information
7. Informs the PTAC of the Flock Plan and implements commercial surveillance
8. Instructs industry surveillance teams
9. Reminds and explains the conveyance document request process
10. Requests pre-processing testing be done by PCR (instead of serology) in a 50 mile extended area around the case
11. Coordinates courier of samples with backyard surveillance testing team

THE COMPANY AND GROWER:

1. Implement rodent and insect control on the farm to prevent rodent migration during depopulation
2. Company informs grower of all activities to come (depopulation, disposal, VE)
3. Company participates in developing the flock plan along with GDA and the grower
4. Designate a company site manager that will be the official contact about the farm(s) and event.
5. Handling of eggs from a positive breeder flock:
 - All eggs in the farm egg room are removed and disposed of in an approved manner. All eggs already in the hatchery are removed depending on risk.
6. Handling of eggs from a positive layer flock:
 - Considerations are: 1) Send processed eggs to breakers; 2) Destroy eggs

USDA:

1. Communicates with NPIC (National Program Incident Coordination) regarding cost share, reimbursements and indemnity.
2. Provide NVS services upon request. The flock plan outlines WHO will do WHAT, WHEN and WHERE during the resolution of the event.

[Annex 6a: Biosecure deliveries and visitors](#)

[Annex 7a: Flock Plan](#)

[Annex 7b: Situation Report](#)

[Annex 7c: Clean/Dirty line; Decon trailer](#)

[Annex 11b: Zone grower notification \(Commercial\)](#)

8. PLANS ON DEPOPULATION AND DISPOSAL

GENERAL:

- a. If indemnity is requested, Appendices A and D (FAD PREP) must be signed before depopulation can proceed.
- b. USDA must give written approval before any activity can proceed for which indemnity is requested.
- c. The Flock Plan must be signed before approval & payment of indemnity & compensation.

DEPOPULATION: The goal is to depopulate the infected premise within 24 hrs of the diagnosis.

- a. For commercial floor birds, foaming is the preferred depopulation method ([Annex 8c](#)).
- b. CO2 carts will be used for caged birds ([Annex 8a](#)).
- c. Whole house CO2 is another option. USDA assistance would be required.
- d. Under extreme circumstances, VSD+ will be considered and must be approved by the SAHO.
- e. GDA will take the lead on depopulation with support from the company.
- f. For small backyard flocks, cervical dislocation or CO2 will be used using barrels ([Annex 8b](#)) or the MAK unit ([Annex 8d](#)).

[Annex 8a: CO2 carts](#)

[Annex 8b: Barrel CO2 for backyard birds](#)

[Annex 8c: Foaming trailer](#)

[Annex 8d: MAK](#)

DISPOSAL:

- a. Every company has been asked to prepare their disposal plans in advance. Companies take the lead on disposal with support from the GDA.
- b. Disposal of dead birds, feed, eggs and litter must all be considered.
- c. Burial ([Annex 8j](#)) and composting ([Annex 8h](#)) are the preferred disposal methods in Georgia. A mass burial site must be approved by the GDA. GDA mortality disposal rules described in [Annex 8f](#), disposal choices by county [Annex 8g](#), moving material off premises [Annex 8i](#)
- d. Decisions on disposal of PPE and other materials will be made on a case by case basis.
- e. Landfills ([Annex 8k](#)) and incineration are alternate disposal methods that can be taken into consideration.
- f. Rendering plants ([Annex 8l](#)) may be an option in extreme circumstances.

[Annex 8e outlines the possible costs associated with depopulation and disposal for reference](#)

[Annex 8e: Approximate costs of depop and disposal](#)

[Annex 8f: GDA mortality disposal](#)

[Annex 8g: GA disposal by county](#)

[Annex 8h: Composting](#)

[Annex 8i: Moving materials off premises](#)

[Annex 8j: Mass burial](#)

[Annex 8k: Landfills and rendering plants](#)

9. PLANS ON VIRUS ELIMINATION

VIRUS ELIMINATION:

- a. USDA must give written approval before any activity can proceed for which indemnity is requested.
- b. Every grower has been asked to prepare their VE plans in advance. Companies take the lead on VE with support from the GDA.
- c. Traditional wet cleaning and disinfection, as well as dry cleaning followed by heating, may be considered.
- d. Many growers are willing to use their own equipment for C&D.
- e. [Annex 9a](#) has a detailed description of VE.
- f. GPLN will perform the virus detection tests according to the USDA protocol (Vet Max Gold only) after VE to release the farm (protocol from FAD PREP). Samples with positive results will be sent to NVSL for virus isolation.

[Annex 9a: GDA C&D Document](#)

10. PROVISIONS FOR APPROPRIATE ZONES, CONTACT SURVEYS, AND MOVEMENT RESTRICTIONS

CONTACT SURVEYS:

Contact surveys (detecting dangerous contacts) are done while the preliminary epidemiological investigation is conducted.

APPROPRIATE ZONES:

The Commercial Surveillance Zone (CSZ) is the 10 km zone around the infected premises. The Zone may not always be an exact or single circle depending on the geography, bird density, and number of cases. A 3km zone around each case is also drawn and represents the boundaries for backyard surveillance (BSZ).

The zones around any backyard case will be called a STA (State Testing Area). Besides the different name, all testing, movement and conveyances are done the same was as described for a CSZ under Section 11.

MOVEMENT RESTRICTIONS:

All movement of poultry, eggs and feed into, within and out of the CSZ requires a conveyance document. The conveyance documents are requested from GDA and serve as a permission to move after defined testing and biosecurity conditions are met.

[No annexes for Section 10](#)

11.MONITORING ACTIVITIES IN THE SURVEILLANCE ZONES

General Provisions for the CSZ:

- a. Every grower in the CSZ is given a copy of [Annex 11b](#). Implement strict biosecurity.
- b. Initial 24 hour no movement period
- c. Stop servicing in the Zone; Growers notification of high mortality or egg production drops
- d. Stop house clean out and litter spreading
- e. Feed birds in Zone using a dedicated truck at the end of the day/week
- f. No placement of birds unless an exception is made by the Committee.
- g. If the case is in GA, but the zone extends in a neighboring state, either state lab can be chosen by the industry for testing after both SAHO approval from both states.

Commercial Surveillance Zone plan, scheduled and followed by GPLN and industry (10 km)

- a. GPLN summarizes the status of all farms in the CSZ and obtains the information about dangerous contacts from the epidemiologist and the industry
- b. Surveillance starts by industry teams within 24 hours of the confirmation, following priorities (high mortality flocks, epidemiological links, scheduled movements). GPLN supplies kits with submission form (GPLN FORM 272) and sampling instructions.
- c. Once the CSZ status is known (after every farm is tested once), [Annex 11d](#) is followed for movement requirements and conveyance document generation within the zone (conveyance form [Annex 11a](#) - Gateway).
- d. Test all farms a minimum of 2 times within 12-21 days after the diagnosis. See Release and repopulation of Zone paragraph in this section.
- e. Growers are asked to place dead and cull birds just inside the poultry house door for easy and quick access by the sampling team.
- f. All birds are tested by virus detection (PCR) on oropharyngeal swabs, 10 birds/house from each house. For one or two house farms, a minimum of per 30/farm must be taken (15 or 30/house).
- g. Broilers and pullets are tested when 14 days or older

- h. Farms in the general area of the affected farm, or in an area considered at risk, will be asked to test by PCR for their broiler pre-processing testing (in lieu of serology). This is encouraged, but not mandatory.

Movement of Commercial poultry within a CSZ:

- a. Priority for movement is given to broilers going to processing.
- b. Decisions for pullets, spike males and breeder movements are based on risk and can be delayed as needed.
- c. Move only after status of all zone farms is known using a conveyance document
- d. Flocks going to processing move only after a negative virus detection test within 72* hours of movement, 10 (minimum) dead or cull birds per house, minimum 30 birds/premise. The first test can be used as the movement test for broilers going to processing if within 72* hours of movement.
- e. Pullets, spike males and breeders should be tested a second time before movement, that second test being within 48 hours of movement.
- f. Logistics issues may guide exception decisions in timing of testing before movement.
**72 hours means the time between sample collection and start of loading of birds. Ideally 48 hours; Birds must load continuously; Restesting may be requested if loading time exceeds 96 hours*

Specific guidelines on surveillance activities (Backyard):

- a. The Backyard Surveillance Zone (BSZ) is the 3 km zone around the case
- b. GDA starts the backyard flock survey in the BSZ within 72 hours of NVSL confirmation
- c. Follow GPLN guidelines for instructions regarding sample type and handling different species. The decision to test waterfowl is on a case by case basis. A different submission sheet is used at GPLN (GPLN FORM 272)
- d. Backyard flocks in the BSZ should all be tested a minimum of one time before the Zone restrictions are lifted.
- e. An alternative scenario would be:
 - During the first visit, explain and leave [Annex 11c](#). Perform the sampling.
 - Second contact: call or visit in 7-10 days and ask if there are any problems with the birds. Test only if problems are reported (sick birds).
 - Third contact is in another 7-10 days. Visit farm and perform sampling.

- f. Backyard owners will be concerned about their birds in the state once they hear of the outbreak. GA has a hotline through which incoming information about backyard potential cases can be prioritized for testing. A backyard “sick call” should be handled as a diagnostic case and visited in a biosecure manner by the backyard surveillance team.
- g. Backyard flocks to processing move only after a negative virus detection test within 72* hours of movement, minimum 30 birds of each species/premise (dead and cull have priority). The first test can be used as the movement test for backyard birds going to processing if within 72* hours of movement. For live bird movements, they should be tested a second time within 48 hours of movement.

Quarantine release of FARM:

- a. The positive farm may be released from Quarantine 21 days after the end of the VE protocol (with proof of absence of virus done during that 21-day period-FAD PREP), as long as the zone has been released for repopulation.
- b. The quarantines on dangerous contacts and epi links are lifted after a minimum of 2 rounds of negative testing 12-21 days apart.

Release and repopulation of the CSZ and continued surveillance:

- a. The CSZ is released (can be repopulated) after a minimum of 2 rounds of testing have been completed in commercial poultry (and a minimum of 1 round in backyard poultry in the BSZ) within 21 days with no new cases.
- b. At the time of release, all surveillance testing returns to pre-event NPIP levels. There are no sentinel flocks. Note that the zone can repopulate even if the affected farm is still under quarantine. Note that the GDA interstate Movement Health Requirements (40-13-2.16) is in [Annex 11e](#).

[Annex 11a: Requesting a conveyance](#)

[Annex 11b: Zone grower notification \(Commercial\)](#)

[Annex 11c: Letter to non-commercial owners](#)

[Annex 11d: Movement of poultry and products](#)

[Annex 11e: GDA movement rules](#)

12. PLANS ON VACCINES

GA would consider requesting vaccination:

- In some extreme circumstances where very large numbers of confined poultry would be found positive such as commercial layers.
- As a means towards eradication, and NOT as a sole control method.

The process of approval will include concurrence of the SAHO and approval of the Deputy Administrator of USDA for H5 and H7 vaccines as part of the eradication program.

Vaccine would be purchased and administered by the company and be under the control and permitted for use by the SAHO. The Federal and State role in the vaccination process will be limited to oversight and monitoring.

13. PLANS FOR AI NEGATIVE FLOCKS

CONTROLLED MARKETING

Appendix D (available from USDA) is used to evaluate the possibility of controlled marketing. Controlled marketing (processing virus negative, antibody positive flock) will only be considered under extreme circumstances. The SAHO and PTAC may utilize the USDA Decision tree in making a decision. Currently in GA, controlled marketing is not an acceptable option. Full indemnity may not be approved if USDA feels like controlled marketing is an option.

14. EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

In 2014, an educational poster about AI (available in English, Spanish and Vietnamese) was placed on every GA farm, thanks to a USDA cooperative agreement. Following the 2015 Midwest outbreak, GPLN and GPF launched a biosecurity campaign, and started offering education and update presentations for growers every fall. GPLN is in contact with industry regarding disease events. In 2018, a Biosecurity Principles poster was printed and distributed to those interested. Grower education is on-going.

During an outbreak, information is distributed through the feed stores (on social media, and on the GPLN and GDA websites), to encourage sick bird calls through the AI Hot Line.

[The 2019 GA LPAI Plan was approved by USDA in July 2020.](#)

[The USDA suggestions are included in this 2022 version and were approved by industry in 2020.](#)

RELEVANT USDA DOCUMENTS:

Google: USDA Avian Influenza Guidance Documents

VS Guidance 12001.4: Policy for investigating Potential FAD/Emerging disease incidents

Guide to Avian FAD: Lab results and status

Guidance Documents 8602 and 8603

DOCUMENT CHANGES FOR FEB 2022 VERSION:

Page 1: First paragraph: after Red Book, added “and the Secure Poultry Plan.”
after and approved by the SAHO, added and/or a simple majority

Page 2:

1a Removed “cell phone numbers are available upon request”
1e end of sentence, added “or as needed” (added to “yearly”)
1f Replace 1/year with as needed
Communication Plan, a. 1 after EPI, added NAHLN and NVSL

Page 3:

First sentence: removed the word “now” after principles.
Added the new AI poster and labeled the 3 posters

Page 4:

For the GPLN, added “normal PCR AI run daily: 50”, For the AVDL, added “Runs wildlife AI samples”
Updated Tifton’s phone number
Last paragraph: added “to direct samples to the different NAHLN labs” after “The SAHO may choose”

Page 5:

Handling a presumptive positive result
4a Added NAHLN and at the beginning of the sentence.
4f changed duplicate to duplicate (or split), Changed 2 identical to 2 comparable
4g added “and NVSL are negative” after test at GPLN

Page 6:

5c: added “tested by labs other than GPLN”
5d: Removed “It is important that USDA reporting to the OIE precedes public messaging by GDA”
7a: Replaced “IC” with person responsible for the event (the incident commander if ICS is used).

Page 7:

7c-1: replaced indemnity specialists with field reimbursement specialists, and added “or phone call” after meeting
7c-2: Replaced Appendices 1,2,3 with Guidance document 8603.2
7c-4: Replaced Appendices 1,2,3 with Guidance document 8603.2

Page 8:

GDA 2. added ‘requests activation of a state of emergency...’ statement
GPLN (NAHLN) 5. replaced NAHLN reimbursement with available supplemental funding

Page 9:

GPLN (ICS) 2. Changed wording to “emails a letter to industry to send to their vendors to inform them of the situation” Removed associated Annex.
GPLN (ICS) 4. added the word additional after “deploys”, Removed the “Move organics in” annex

Page 10: 8b: Added USDA approval statement

Page 11: 9a: Added USDA approval statement

Page 12: General provisions a. added “in the CSZ” after every grower

Commercial Surveillance Zone: f: added clarification for farms with one or 2 houses

Page 13: h: added entire statement about pre slaughter testing

Movement of Commercial poultry e. added “that second test within 48 hours of movement”
Specific guidelines c: Corrected GPLN form to 272

Page 15: Section 13: Added Full indemnity statement at the end of the paragraph

Section 14: Added “during an outbreak, ...” sentence at the end of the paragraph
Added comments about USDA approval if the plan
Added RELEVANT USDA documents

Page 16: Added track changes page

QUICK REFERENCE CHART

GA LPAI Plan Quick Reference Chart	
PTAC (Poultry Technical Advisory Committee)	One representative per company (39 entities in GA) Ad hoc: AVIC, SAHO, EPI
Communications Officer (for industry)	Executive Director of GPLN
Outside Communications Officer	GDA PIO
Minimum Biosecurity Plan	Corresponds to 14 NPIP Biosecurity principles
Diagnostic resources	3 NAHLN Labs: GPLN, UGA Tifton, UGA Athens
Presumptive positives: DEFINITION	Positive on serology (AGID), not yet confirmed by NVSL Detected on PCR at NAHLN Lab, not yet confirmed by NVSL
Presumptive positive FOLLOW UP	Immediate farm visit for diagnostic testing (30 blood samples per farm, minimum 20 swabs per house, dead or sick birds priority); split and send to NVSL if positive at GPLN or NAHLN Lab; Alert SAHO, EPI, AVIC
Handling of positive case	24 hour hold on all movements, farm quarantine, map, flock plan, submit forms (Guidance FADPREP 8603.2) to USDA, activate site managers and decontamination unit at farm
Depopulation method of choice	Foaming (commercial); CO2 (backyard); CO2 carts (layers)
Foaming units in GA	GPLN/GDA: 5, Fieldale: 1; Fries: 1; Pilgrims: 1, Cobb: 1, Tyson: 1, Wayne: 1 (AL)
Disposal methods of choice	Burial, Composting
Zone names and sizes	10 km Commercial Surveillance Zone (CSZ), 3 km Backyard Surveillance Zone (BSZ) State Testing Area (STA) 10 km around backyard flocks
Definition of pre-movement test period	Time between the sampling and the loading of the birds. 72 hours, ideally 48 hours.
Movement and Continuation of Business	Movement starts only after all commercial poultry flocks in the CSZ have been tested once by PCR. Live bird movement out of the Zone requires another test within 72 hours of movement unless the birds are moved within 72 hours of the first test. Use GDA Conveyance document requests.
Zone intersecting with another state	State veterinarians and industry agree on where samples are sent at the beginning of the outbreak.
Surveillance – Commercial 10 km Zone	BY PCR. INDUSTRY COLLECTS SAMPLES. Minimum of 2 rounds of testing (second test within 12-21 days of the first test); 10 swabs minimum/house – 30 minimum/farm – dead or sick have priority
Surveillance – Backyard (3 km)	BY PCR. GDA COLLECTS SAMPLES. Minimum of one sampling each for all BY flocks in the BSZ. Decision on testing of waterfowl on a case by case basis. Dead or sick birds have testing priority.
Farm Quarantine release	21 days after VE with a negative environmental test within that time; if the Zone has been released for repopulation
10 km Zone surveillance release	After a minimum of 2 rounds of negative tests for all commercial farms within the CSZ, and a minimum of one round of negative tests for backyard flocks within the backyard surveillance zone and if no new cases are diagnosed.

ANNEXES

Annexes for Section 1:

- Annex 1a: GPLN and Lab contacts
- Annex 1b: GDA contacts
- Annex 1c: USDA contacts

Annexes for Section 4:

- Annex 4a : NVSL Submission Form
- Annex 4b: NVSL Portal instructions
- Annex 4c: Company isolation
- Annex 4d : Preliminary flock info

Annexes for section 6:

- Annex 6a: Biosecure deliveries and visitors

Annexes for Section 7:

- Annex 7a: Flock Plan
- Annex 7b: Sit Rep
- Annex 7c: Decon trailer
- See Annex 11b below

Annexes for Section 8:

- Annex 8a: CO2 carts
- Annex 8b: Barrel CO2 for backyard birds
- Annex 8c: Foaming trailer
- Annex 8d: MAK
- Annex 8e: Example of costs associate with depop/disposal
- Annex 8f: GDA mortality disposal
- Annex 8g: GA disposal by county
- Annex 8h: Composting
- Annex 8i: Moving materials off premises
- Annex 8j: Mass burial
- Annex 8k: Landfills and rendering plants

Annexes for Section 9:

- Annex 9a: GDA C&D Document

Annexes for Section 11:

- Annex 11a: Requesting a conveyance
- Annex 11b: Zone grower notification (Commercial)
- Annex 11c: Backyard farmer notification
- Annex 11d: Movement of poultry and products
- Annex 11e: GDA movement rules