



University of California
Agriculture and Natural Resources
Cooperative Extension

LIVESTOCK AND NATURAL RESOURCES PLACER-NEVADA-SUTTER-YUBA COUNTIES

NEWS FLASH

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Virulent Newcastle Disease Reported in Southern California Chickens

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) has reported a case of Virulent Newcastle Disease (VND) in a small flock of backyard exhibition chickens in Los Angeles County. The case was detected at the UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine’s California Animal Health and Food Safety (CAHFS) Laboratory. CDFA has quarantined potentially exposed birds.

VND is a highly contagious and deadly virus in birds, according to the UCCE Poultry website. The virus is found in respiratory discharges and feces. Clinical signs include:

- Sneezing
- Coughing
- Nasal discharge
- Green watery diarrhea
- Depression
- Neck twisting
- Circling
- Muscle tremors
- Paralysis
- Decreased egg production
- Swelling around eyes and neck
- Sudden death

For more information about VND and tips about biosecurity in small-scale poultry flocks, go to [http://ucanr.edu/sites/poultry/Virulent Newcastle Disease Outbreak Information and Resources/](http://ucanr.edu/sites/poultry/Virulent_Newcastle_Disease_Outbreak_Information_and_Resources/). Information is available in English and Spanish.

The USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service recommends that small and backyard flock owners follow three basic biosecurity steps:

1. Wash hands and scrub boots before and after entering an area with birds.
2. Clean and disinfect tires and equipment before moving them off property.
3. Isolate any birds returning from shows for 30 days before placing them with the rest of the flock.

For more information, contact:

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United States Department of Agriculture, University of California, Placer, Nevada, Sutter and Yuba Counties cooperating.

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