UPDATE: Final NVSL reporting confirms the avian influenza antibodies as H5N2. All subsequent PCR testing has been negative.

Information below this point is from the disease alert sent January 25, 2019.

NVSL has confirmed the detection of H5 avian influenza antibodies with serologic testing - see below for details.

The Board of Animal Health will begin implementing their Initial State Containment and Response Plan (the Minnesota Plan). Additional information will be released as deemed necessary.

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Influenza Suspect Disease Alert

Testing conducted on samples from a Minnesota poultry flock indicate exposure to influenza virus. These results are based on screening tests as part of the State’s continued surveillance efforts to detect poultry diseases. The Minnesota Board of Animal Health will release more information after the National Veterinary Service Laboratory finishes confirmatory testing.

Alert Level: CRITICAL

MNAIW01-19 - CHIPPEWA COUNTY

- Flock is located in Chippewa County, MAPP Code = 12GRAC18A
- Multi-age premises; 18 week old commercial turkey toms (flock size 9,100)
• No illness or mortality is present in the tested flock; the 2 week old birds on site are experiencing elevated morality and illness.

• Routine, pre-market samples were submitted to the MPTL on January 22, 2019

• Antibodies were detected in 15 of the 20 serum samples tested by AGID and 20 out of 20 serum samples tested by ELISA (see explanation of serologic testing below). **Samples were submitted to the National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL) in Ames, IA and serotyped as H5 positive.**

• Tracheal swab samples were collected on January 24, 2019 and submitted to the MPTL for PCR testing on January 25, 2019. 1 of the 3 samples was in the suspect range on the AI Matrix (Ct 37.44) and H5/H7 negative.

• Please remember to be vigilant with your biosecurity and help keep Minnesota’s poultry healthy. Contact your veterinarian if you suspect any diseases or illnesses in your flock.

**ALERT LEVEL DESIGNATION**

**WATCH**

Serology positive flock, no clinical signs consistent with HPAI.

**WARNING**

Virus detected, no clinical signs consistent with HPAI.

**CRITICAL**

Virus detected, clinical signs consistent with HPAI, or H5 or H7 positive test results.

**Testing information:**

• Serologic testing (AGID or ELISA) is a diagnostic tool that looks for the presence of antibodies in the blood. The detection of antibodies are an indication that the bird has been exposed to a disease agent and its body produced antibodies in response to a virus/bacteria. It does not indicate whether or not the disease causing agent is still present within the flock.

• Molecular testing (PCR) is a diagnostic tool that looks for the presence of the disease agent (virus or bacteria) in the bird. Positive influenza results indicate that the bird is infected and shedding virus.
• Testing at the MPTL or Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (VDL) are to be interpreted as preliminary results and require confirmation at the National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL).

If there are any questions or concerns please contact your veterinarian or the MPTL at 320-231-5170.