

AFBI Health and Safety policy for staff involved in Avian influenza work

The World Health Organisation (WHO) advise that certain control measures may be required to protect staff engaged directly in the management of avian influenza eradication. One element is to provide staff with annual Flu vaccination; another is the ability to take anti-viral drugs should this become necessary. These controls are such that staff with certain medical conditions may be unable to comply with them; therefore for staff working on the AIV program it will be necessary in the interest of your health and in compliance with the COSHH legislation, that you are medically assessed as suitable to receive the flu vaccine and anti-viral treatment. This will be assessed confidentially by our OHS, initially by means of a questionnaire and if they should deem it necessary an appointment with the OHS. Questionnaires are to be submitted annually.

AFBI staff involved in this work are required to complete a Health Questionnaire so that a list of staff who are considered suitable to work on AIV eradication may be drawn up. This list will be reviewed in light of any changes to medical advice which may occur.

What to do if you have been nominated to work with AI samples

If you have been nominated to work with AI samples you will be assigned AI2 or AI3 status.

AI 2 - Administer seasonal human flu vaccination and fit to take Oseltamivir

AI 3 - Fit to take seasonal human flu vaccination and fit to take Oseltamivir

Complete the [OHS Avian Influenza Health Questionnaire](#), writing on one of the top corners AI2 or AI3.

- 1) If you have sent the questionnaire in previous years you ALSO have to complete the [AI Follow up](#) form.
- 2) Place the completed questionnaires in an envelope. Write your Name, your National Insurance Number and AI2 or AI3 on the sealed envelope and mark the envelope "**Confidential**". Place this within another envelope marked '**Confidential**' and send to AFBI Personnel using the following address:

AI Referral

AFBI Personnel Unit
AFBI Headquarters
Newforge Lane

AFBI Personnel Unit will not open your sealed envelope but will forward it in confidence to OHS.

- 3) You will be health screened by the OHS. This screening is needed to ensure that there are no medical reasons preventing you undertaking this job and taking the relevant anti-viral drugs and human flu vaccine should you require doing so. You might be given an appointment with the OHS.
- 4) You will receive a certificate of fitness from the OHS.
- 5) Staff belonging to the AI2 group will receive the human flu vaccination. Staff belonging to the AI3 group will not receive the human flu vaccine at this stage.
- 6) If you cannot make an appointment please notify personnel as soon as possible otherwise the whole process of referring needs to be carried out again.
- 7) Staff would also need to make AFBI Personnel Unit aware if they receive the flu vaccine from their own doctors.
- 8) Nothing further will happen for staff belonging to the AI3 group.
- 9) After immunisation with the human flu vaccine, AI2 staff will receive a Letter of Authorisation.
- 10) If anybody from the AI2 group is exposed to HPAI samples, s/he will be given the anti-viral prophylaxis (Tamiflu).
- 11) If we face an AI epizootic emergency and we require more staff to work with the samples, staff belonging to the AI3 group will receive the human flu vaccine.

You can find more information on the latest [OHS AI Health and Safety Issues](#) document.

The AIV questionnaires are available on the AFBI Intranet for download.