

Guidelines for Safe Handling of Birds, Dead or Alive

When collecting samples from live birds to submit for testing:

Latex gloves and a face shield or protective eyewear should be worn during the entire bleeding procedure. Hands should be cleaned with an alcohol based disinfectant after removing gloves and the gloves disposed of. Hand sanitizers containing around 70% alcohol are most effective. Should the Asian strain of Avian Influenza H5N1 be detected in the United States, additional occupational safety measures will be necessary. Draft guidelines are available in Appendix E of the Surveillance and Control of Selected Arthropod-borne Diseases in Florida, 2006 Guidebook.

http://www.doh.state.fl.us/environment/community/arboviral/pdf_files/Arboguide2006.pdf

When collecting a dead bird to submit for testing:

Avoid touching the bird with your bare hands. Wear disposable gloves, or place your hand through a plastic bag to pick up the bird. Place the bird in a plastic bag that is sealed tightly. Remove the gloves or plastic bag from your hands by turning them inside out. Dispose of the gloves or plastic bag in a trash bag. Place the bag containing the bird in a second plastic bag, and tie securely. Place the double-bagged bird in a cooler with blue ice. Wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water. Ship the bird in either a hard-sided cooler, or a Styrofoam cooler placed in a cardboard box. It is important to specify that the package be shipped via ground transportation. The shipping company should let you know if the package is unable to be shipped by ground to a certain location. If this is the case, a pressure container will need to be used to ship the package via air. Additional packaging and shipping information can be found at:

http://www.doh.state.fl.us/environment/community/arboviral/protocol_bird.htm

When disposing of a dead bird:

Avoid touching the bird with your bare hands. Wear disposable gloves, or place your hand through a plastic bag to pick up the bird. Bury the bird two foot deep, **or** place the bird in a plastic bag and tie securely. Remove the gloves or plastic bag from your hands by turning them inside out. Dispose of the gloves or plastic bag in the trash bag. Place the bag containing the bird in a second bag, and tie securely. Place the double-bagged bird in the garbage. Wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water. Wash any clothing that has come into contact with the bird with normal household detergent at normal temperatures.