

Abbreviations

AI	Avian Influenza- Includes both highly pathogenic and low pathogenic avian influenza.
APHIS	Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services- a branch of the U.S. Department of Agriculture charged with protecting American agriculture.
ARDS	Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome is an acute, severe injury to most or all of both lungs.
AVIC	Area Veterinarian in Charge- The lead federal veterinarian for USDA/APHIS/VS in a specified area
BSL-2, BSL-3	Biosafety Levels 2 and 3. Biosafety levels describe what sorts of tests and pathogens a laboratory can handle. BSL-2 labs handle pathogens involving agents of moderate potential hazard to personnel and the environment. BSL-3 labs work with indigenous or exotic agents which may cause serious or potentially lethal disease as a result of exposure by the inhalation route.
CBP	US Customs and Border Protection. CBP is the federal agency with jurisdiction for enforcement of illegal imports.
CDC	The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
CFR	Case Fatality Rate. The ratio of the number of deaths caused by a specified disease to the number of diagnosed cases of that disease.
CNS	Central Nervous System
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
FADD	Foreign Animal Disease Diagnosticians- veterinarians who work with the area veterinarian in charge (AVIC) to diagnose diseases possibly of foreign origin.
HEPA	Highly Efficient Particle Air filter
HPAI	Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza- Avian influenza strains are categorized based on the severity and mortality of the illness produced. HPAI strains cause severe, often fatal illnesses. Of particular interest is the H5N1 strain, which is transmissible to humans.
ICS	Incident Command Structure

IFA	Immunofluorescence Assay. A laboratory test used to detect antibodies in serum or other body fluid. The specific antibodies are labeled with a compound that makes them glow when observed microscopically under ultraviolet light.
ILI	Influenza-like Illness
JIC	A Joint Information Center is a communications hub used to transmit information between cooperating groups
LPAI	Low Pathogenic Avian Influenza- Avian influenza strains are categorized based on the severity and mortality of the illness produced. LPAI strains of the virus cause relatively minor illnesses with low mortality rates.
NAHLN	National Animal Health Laboratory Network coordinates the veterinary diagnostic laboratory capacity of state animal health laboratories.
NVSL	The National Veterinary Services Laboratory serves as a national reference laboratory, providing other diagnostic laboratories with animal disease information and technical guidance. NVSL also performs laboratory testing for the Veterinary Services unit of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services (APHIS).
PEP	Post Exposure Prophylaxis- Medication given after exposure to an infectious agent to prevent the exposed person from contracting the disease or mitigate the seriousness of the illness.
PH	Public Health
PPE	Personal Protective Equipment- Gowns, gloves, masks, goggles, face shields, boot covers, hair covers, and other equipment used to prevent exposure to infectious agents.
RNA	Ribonucleic Acid
RRT	Rapid Response Team- first responders for public health. The RRT provides immediate services in the field in the event of an outbreak.
RT-PCR	Reverse Transcriptase Polymerase Chain Reaction- a laboratory technique for amplifying a defined piece of an RNA molecule. One of the best available tests for avian influenza A (H5N1).
SARI	The terms Severe Acute Respiratory Illness can describe any severe respiratory illness that is not caused by a chronic condition.
USDA	The United States Department of Agriculture

VS	Veterinary Services- a division of APHIS, charged with overseeing animal health.
VTM	Viral Transport Medium- any of the media used for the recovery of viral specimens.
WHO	World Health Organization