m **MINNESOTA**
BOARD OF ANIMAL HEALTH

Safeguarding the health of your flock

Have you had a poultry flock for a couple years? Now's the time to enhance the well-being of your beloved flock by reinforcing biosecurity practices.

Here's what you need to know:

- It's never a bad time to elevate your standards of care. Even seasoned poultry owners need to prioritize biosecurity. Strengthen your existing efforts to ensure ongoing health for your flock.

- Be vigilant and regularly assess and update biosecurity practices to adapt to changing circumstances and potential risks.

- If you've inspired friends or neighbors to raise poultry, make sure to share your experiences and commitment to biosecurity to keep birds healthy.

- Education never stops and different diseases or biosecurity threats could impact your flock. Stay on top of the issues and learn about new challenges from your veterinarian, fellow poultry community, or local Extension experts.

Ways to help reinforce your flock biosecurity:

☐ Already have a flock at home? Isolate new birds for two to three weeks to prevent potential disease transmission to your existing flock.

☐ Regularly clean and disinfect feeding and watering equipment, coop, and places poultry have access to reduce disease risks.

☐ Keep your poultry fenced in and limit visitors to your poultry area. If guests have poultry of their own, it might be best to keep them out of your coop.

☐ Wash your hands. Wash them before and after handling birds, eggs, or their feed.

☐ Change into specific shoes or boots when entering your poultry area. Don't bring your street shoes into your coop.

☐ Keep a close eye on your birds for any signs of illness. If you notice anything unusual, talk to a vet.

☐ Remind visitors entering the poultry area about your biosecurity steps.

☐ Keep your vet in your favorite contacts list and don't be afraid to reach out if you spot any signs of illness or something seems off in your flock.

Further Resources:

- USDA Defend the Flock: aphis.usda.gov/animalhealth/defendtheflock

- University of Minnesota Extension - Poultry: extension.umn.edu/poultry