

H5N1 quarantine basics

This document briefly explains the state’s quarantine process and requirements during a H5N1 detection.

Specifics of a quarantine

A quarantine is initiated when there is a non-negative (positive) lab result for H5N1 virus in livestock. A quarantine means that animals cannot move on or off the premises without permission from the Board.

Cattle of all breeds and poultry on the premises of the origin herd will be quarantined for at least 30 days. Other exposed livestock and susceptible animals (example: cats), manure, waste milk, and livestock carcasses will also be quarantined.

State response actions during a quarantine

The Board conducts an investigation, which will include collecting information on animal movements and working with the owner to develop and implement management plans for waste milk and containment biosecurity. Quarantine protocols and information will be communicated to the producer via the assigned case manager, who serves as the primary point of contact.

Additionally, the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) will provide guidance on human health risks, personal protective equipment and enroll persons in voluntary health monitoring and testing. MDH will contact the owner for contact information of employees and others who were on the affected premises. Participation in health monitoring by individuals is voluntary but owners are expected to provide the contact lists.

Producer requirements while quarantined

Producers may apply for a movement permit from the Board to move animals or animal products onto or off the quarantined premises. The Board reviews each permit and may either approve or deny requests.

For a quarantine to be released, the following conditions must be met:

1. It’s been a minimum of 30 days since the quarantine was issued.
2. Three consecutive, negative, bulk tank samples taken at least seven days apart.
 - a. If the farm doesn’t have a bulk tank they can request an alternate sampling method to be approved by the Board.
3. At the same time as the third bulk tank sampling, all lactating animals not contributing to the tank must individually test negative.