



United States Department of Agriculture

Checklist for Using a Line of Separation

Poultry diseases are caused by tiny viruses, bacteria, and other microscopic particles. They can be everywhere, so it's important to avoid moving or spreading them on your clothes, shoes, or equipment. The best way to do this is to have clear separation between your poultry area (where your birds are kept) and the rest of the world. A line of separation is a functional line separating the poultry house or enclosure (and the poultry inside) from exposure to potential disease sources. Whether you're part of a large commercial enterprise or keep birds as a hobby, using a line of separation will protect your birds' health.

If you see or suspect anything unusual, call your flock supervisor, veterinarian, or cooperative extension office right away. Use this form to record phone numbers for contacts in your area. The earlier you act, the easier it is to contain the disease to a single flock.

 Check the list on the back for tips to help keep your flocks healthy.



Report Sick Birds

If you see signs of illness, take action right away!

Veterinarian

Cooperative Extension Office

State Veterinarian/Animal or Poultry Diagnostic Lab

USDA

Phone Number

866.536.7593



Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service



✓ Checklist: Tips for Using a Line of Separation

This checklist is a general guide to practicing good biosecurity, but if you have a site-specific biosecurity plan, please follow it. Commercial growers should be sure their site-specific plans follow the National Poultry Improvement Plan biosecurity principles.

- ☐ **Define your line of separation.** Include your entire poultry house/enclosure and any outdoor access areas. Have only one entry to better control who and what crosses the line. If possible, mark the line with colored tape.
- ☐ **If your poultry flock has outdoor access that isn't enclosed, a line of separation is still encouraged.**
- ☐ **In your biosecurity plan, draw the boundaries for your poultry areas and clearly outline what caretakers, visitors, or suppliers must do when crossing it.**
This includes how to move birds, personal items, food, vehicles, equipment, and supplies. Give training on the procedures.
- ☐ **At your entry point, include a place to change out of footwear and outer clothing before entering.** On the inside, have a place to put on site-specific footwear and outer clothing after crossing the line of separation.
- ☐ **Post signs at the entry point reminding everyone of the steps they need to take to cross the line of separation.**
- ☐ **Provide site-specific coveralls, footwear, and cleaning/disinfecting supplies.**
- ☐ **Have a sink with running water and soap or hand sanitizer at the entry point.** Post signs reminding people to clean their hands.
- ☐ **Keep an entry logbook.** List who or what crosses into your poultry area (people, poultry, food, vehicles, equipment) and when those items enter and exit.

For more information about how to keep your flocks healthy, follow **Defend the Flock** on **Facebook** and **Twitter** and visit www.aphis.usda.gov/animalhealth/defendtheflock.

