

Additional information for fact sheets to communities

Sheffield 12/8/13 – from L. Castrodale's answers Dec 2013

What do the health aides need to know / look out for re. Infection in people?

Most often an infection in a human from the bacterium *Pasteurella multocida* has resulted from a cat/dog bite that has become infected. The bacterium comes from an animal's mouth and into a person's skin, and if it isn't quickly cleaned out, an infection can start. There is not good information available about what, if any, risk a dead bird carcass infected with *Pasteurella multocida* presents to a human. Similar to a dog/cate bite, if a healthy human got the bacteria into a localized open wound (like a cut on the finger) the bacterial infection can be easily managed with hand washing/hand sanitizer. Most bacterial infections, including *P. multocida* can cause more severe problems in people who have weakened immune systems. .

- If I have eaten a sick bird from the recent bird event what will happen, what do I need to know?

A sick bird may still contain a wide variety of bacteria (including salmonella or campylobacter). If the meat was not cooked, a person might experience vomiting or diarrhea after a few days. If you don't feel well after consuming any animal, you should seek medical attention immediately.

If a person is not feeling sick, there is nothing specific to recommend they do.

- There are several people in our community with a stomach bug and diarrhea - are they infected?

At any point in time, there are people in your community that may have vomiting or diarrhea. Those general symptoms can be caused by many different issues, including bacteria, viruses, or other health issues a person may have, etc.

People who are ill with vomiting and diarrhea (regardless of their exposure to the birds) should consult with your village health aide to see what appropriate course of action may be needed, and whether routine testing or medication may or may not be needed.

- Are other foods safe to eat if they have touched any infected bird / bird carcass?

In general, foods that come into contact with any dead bird carcass should be cooked before being consumed.

- What does "generally not a high risk in people" actually mean in the ADF&G press release?

Because the usual method of infection in people comes from a direct bite from an affected animal, it is unknown how/if having dead birds in the community presents any risk to humans who are not in direct contact with those carcasses. *Pasteurella multocida* is not a "new" bacteria.

- What about the foxes, pet dogs, and other birds that have scavenged the dead birds?

Other animals, like dogs, may have a variety of bacteria, including *Pasteurella multocida* bacteria in their mouth.

Avian strains of *Pasteurella multocida* have been documented in a wide variety of birds worldwide, but typically causes illness and death in ducks, geese, swans, grebes and domestic poultry. It can affect avian predators/scavengers such as eagles, gulls and ravens, but most healthy scavenging wildlife species are fairly resistant to bacterial infections, unless they receive a large dose of bacteria or if they have weakened immune systems from other health related issues.