

# Newcastle Disease is a controlled disease under the Animal Diseases Act (Act No. 35 of 1984)

## Abattoirs: NEWCASTLE DISEASE



## InfoPak

### WHAT IS NEWCASTLE DISEASE?

- One of the most important diseases in our poultry worldwide
- Highly contagious virus that can affect domestic birds, wild birds and PEOPLE!
- Spreads through direct contact with infected faeces, respiratory discharges (sneezing, coughing) and even contaminated equipment, shoes and clothing
- Virus causes a range of signs in our poultry from no signs of infection to sudden death!
  - Typically affected birds cough, sneeze, have nasal discharge, are depressed and have diarrhoea
  - In laying flocks, there is often a drop in egg production and production of thin shelled eggs
  - Severely affected birds can have swollen tissues of the head, drooping wings, twisted necks and paralysis
- There is no cure for Newcastle Disease in poultry, infected birds have to be destroyed to prevent spread
- If you suspect an outbreak you are legally obligated to notify your nearest state veterinarian or animal technician
  - They will assist you in controlling the outbreak and preventing further spread
- It is recommended that you vaccinate your birds against Newcastle disease



### Newcastle Disease in humans

- People can get Newcastle Disease but it is rare and typically very mild
- Those most at risk are those that work with poultry daily as infection occurs through direct contact with infected birds
- Typically people get conjunctivitis – swelling and reddening of the tissues around the eyes
  - There have been NO recorded cases of people getting Newcastle Disease from eating poultry products
- If you work with poultry and you develop sore, red eyes it is important to contact your doctor and tell them that you work with poultry

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### PREVENTION

- o Wear protective clothing (gloves and safety glasses) when working with poultry especially if any birds show signs of illness
- o Avoid touching your eyes until you have washed your hands with soap and water
- o Staff working with poultry should be warned about this and be properly trained in hygienic protocols



### Reference:

Spickler, Anna Rovid. Dermatophytosis. January 2016.  
[https://www.cfsph.iastate.edu/Factsheets/pdfs/newcastle\\_disease.pdf](https://www.cfsph.iastate.edu/Factsheets/pdfs/newcastle_disease.pdf)

### Contacts:

TITLE	CONTACT NO.	E-MAIL	ADDRESS
State Veterinarian: George	044-803-3771/0	SVGeorge@westerncape.gov.za	4 Varing Avenue, George
State Veterinarian: Boland	021-808-5028/ 5253	SVBoland@westerncape.gov.za	Western Cape Department of Agriculture building, Muldersvlei road, Elsenburg
State Veterinarian: Swellendam	021-808-5059/ 028-425-4850	DOA.svswellendam@westerncape.gov.za	67 Voortrekker St, Swellendam
State Veterinarian: Beaufort West	023-414-9220/1	DOA.svbeaufortwest@westerncape.gov.za	Blyth St, Beaufort West
State Veterinarian: Vredendal	027-201-3514/-0	DOA.svredendal@westerncape.gov.za	Cnr Matzikama and Noord St. Vredendal
State Veterinarian: Malmesbury	022-433-8915/0	DOA.svmalmesbury@westerncape.gov.za	Cnr Spoorweg and Munisipale St, Malmesbury
State Veterinarian: Oudtshoorn	044-203-9443/5	DOA.svoudtshoorn@westerncape.gov.za	43 Van Der Riet St, Oudtshoorn
State Veterinarian: Worcester	021-808-5052	DOA.svworcester@westerncape.gov.za	30 Van Arckel St, Worcester

