

**Occupational Health: Protecting Workers from Avian Influenza Virus Exposure**

**Presenter:** Kathleen MacMahon, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

**Session:** Oral

**Date/Time:** Monday, April 23; 2-3PM

This presentation will emphasize the interdisciplinary and interagency cooperation required to produce recommendations to protect workers from occupational safety and health risks such as zoonoses. The specific recommendations for protecting workers from exposure to the avian influenza virus will be used to demonstrate the collaboration required to produce effective recommendations for this important aspect of veterinary public health. Recommendations for protecting poultry workers will be presented including information regarding training, safe work practices, biosecurity, vaccination, antiviral medications, and personal protective equipment. Information about other workers at risk of exposure to the avian influenza virus, including veterinarians, will be briefly presented and discussed.

**Biography:**

Kathleen MacMahon is a veterinarian in the Education and Information Division of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH). She works on interdisciplinary and interagency teams to produce technical and educational products and policy documents that contain recommendations to improve worker safety and health. Her products range from comprehensive criteria documents to educational brochures and topic pages for the CDC/NIOSH Web site. She is a member of the CDC/NIOSH avian and pandemic influenza working groups. She has a Master of Science degree from the University of New Hampshire and a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree from the University of Minnesota. She has worked in the field of veterinary public health for more than ten years for the U.S. Air Force and CDC/NIOSH.

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