



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ORDER DECLARING QUARANTINE FOR CONTROL AREAS IN THE STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA DUE TO HIGHLY PATHOGENIC AVIAN INFLUENZA

On March 23, 2023, the Executive Director of the Animal Health Commission issued an order declaring quarantine for the State of Pennsylvania Due to Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza. The March 23, 2023 quarantine order is repealed and replaced with the following order:

The Texas Animal Health Commission (the "Commission") is authorized to establish a quarantine against all or a portion of a state in which an animal disease exists to protect livestock, exotic livestock, domestic fowl, and exotic fowl in this state from the disease.

Pursuant to Texas Agriculture Code §161.054, the Commission by rule may regulate the movement of animals and may restrict the intrastate movement of animals even though the movement of the animals is unrestricted in interstate commerce. Under Texas Agriculture Code §161.061, the Commission may establish a quarantine against a state to protect livestock, exotic livestock, domestic fowl, and exotic fowl from diseases the Commission determines require control or eradication under the Commission's disease control authority under Texas Agriculture Code §161.041.

As specified in Title 4, Texas Administrative Code §45.3, the Commission is required to protect all livestock, exotic livestock, domestic fowl, and exotic fowl from avian influenza. Under Title 4, Texas Administrative Code §51.5, if the Executive Director of the Commission determines that avian influenza exists in another state and deems it necessary to protect livestock in this state, the Executive Director may establish a quarantine against all of the state. A quarantine established by the Executive Director will be acted on by the Commission at the next appropriate meeting.

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) is an influenza virus that may cause illness and death in domestic poultry, fowl, and birds. HPAI is extremely infectious, and can spread rapidly from flock to flock and is often fatal to chickens. In domestic poultry, HPAI can cause morbidity and mortality rates between 90-100 percent, leading to detrimental economic consequences.

HPAI can spread easily through airborne transmission or indirectly through contaminated material. Due to the highly contagious nature of HPAI, rapid response to outbreaks is required. Movement control of animals, animal products, and other potentially contaminated materials is critical to prevent transmission of HPAI.

Currently, Pennsylvania is facing controlled outbreaks of HPAI. The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture and the United States Department of Agriculture are actively working to eliminate all outbreaks of HPAI in Pennsylvania. While the measures taken in that state have reduced the incidents of HPAI, the Executive Director of the Commission finds



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that the outbreaks of HPAI that remains in Control Areas within Pennsylvania creates a high probability that domestic poultry and birds in those Pennsylvania Control Areas will have, develop, or be exposed to HPAI.

The Executive Director further finds that the risk of disease exposure from the movement of animals, equipment, vehicles and other fomites from the Pennsylvania Control Areas to Texas could lead to disease exposure across Texas.

The Executive Director, therefore, has determined that the remaining outbreak of HPAI in the Control Areas in the State of Pennsylvania poses a threat to animal health in Texas.

To protect animal health in this state, the Executive Director imposes a quarantine for the Control Areas in the State of Pennsylvania due to HPAI.

The Executive Director hereby orders the following quarantine:

All live poultry, unprocessed poultry, hatching eggs, unprocessed eggs, egg flats, poultry coops, cages, crates, other birds, and used poultry equipment originating from the current Control Areas in Pennsylvania must not enter Texas without express written consent from the Executive Director.

In accordance with Title 4, Texas Administrative Code §51.5 this quarantine order will be acted on by the Commission at the next appropriate meeting.

This order is issued pursuant to Texas Agriculture Code §§161.041, 161.054, and 161.061 and Title 4, Texas Administrative Code §51.5 and is effective immediately.

This order repeals the March 23, 2023 quarantine order titled "Executive Director Order Declaring Quarantine for the State of Pennsylvania Due to Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza."

This order shall remain in effect pending further epidemiological assessment by the Texas Animal Health Commission.

Signed March 31, 2023.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andy Schwartz, D.V.M.".

Andy Schwartz, D.V.M.
Executive Director
Texas Animal Health Commission