



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

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 a widespread outbreak of HPAI. The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture and the United States Department of Agriculture are actively working to control the outbreak of HPAI in Pennsylvania. Despite the measures taken in that state, the incidents of HPAI are increasing in Pennsylvania.

The Executive Director of the Commission finds that the widespread outbreak of HPAI in Pennsylvania creates a high probability that domestic poultry and birds in Pennsylvania will have, develop, or be exposed to HPAI.



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

The Executive Director, therefore, has determined that an outbreak of HPAI 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 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 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 shall remain in effect pending further epidemiological assessment by the Texas Animal Health Commission.

Signed March 23, 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