



# Mycoplasma

## What is Mycoplasma?

Mycoplasma is a contagious respiratory or systemic infection found mainly in chickens and turkeys. It is caused by bacteria which is unaffected by many common antibiotics.

## How is Mycoplasma transmitted?

Transmission occurs through contact with infected birds and aerosolized excretions (sneezes, coughs). Mycoplasma can also be transmitted through egg-laying, although this can depend on when the parent bird was initially infected.

## What are the signs of infection?

As a respiratory infection, common symptoms include nasal inflammation, coughing, and sneezing. These symptoms are often dormant until an animal is stressed. Infection can also lead to decreased egg production. Mycoplasma can also cause arthritis, most commonly in turkeys.

## What are the testing requirements for mycoplasma?

Producers participating in the [National Poultry Improvement Plan](#) (NPIP) may elect to have regular *mycoplasma gallisepticum* and *mycoplasma synoviae* testing. Turkey producers may also opt to test for *mycoplasma meleagridis*.

## What can I do to prevent mycoplasma?

As with most infections, good [biosecurity](#) practices can help prevent mycoplasma in your flock. Vaccinations are also available for both *mycoplasma gallisepticum* and *mycoplasma synoviae* – contact your veterinarian to discuss this option.

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