



US Expands Bird Flu Testing to Nationwide Dairy Products

Description

The United States is set to start testing its national milk supply for bird flu, as declared by the Department of Agriculture on Friday. This new federal mandate requires entities dealing with raw milk, such as dairy processors, to collect samples and provide them to agriculture officials. This initiative has been launched in response to the alarming spread of bird flu within US dairy herds.

Since March, over 700 dairy herds, mostly in California, have fallen victim to this virus, as shown by government statistics. Although nearly 60 people have been infected since April, they exhibited only mild symptoms. The virus is not easily transmitted between humans. Organizations like the World Health Organization and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention consider the public health risk to be low, yet emphasize the importance of vigilantly monitoring the virus's spread.

In a statement, the USDA emphasized that the program aims to "swiftly and diligently" identify affected herds, offering farmers and farmworkers more confidence in animal safety and personal protection. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack explained that this approach is part of a broader strategy to curb the nationwide spread of the virus.

The testing plan, involving monthly or weekly collections, is initially set for California, Colorado, Michigan, Mississippi, Pennsylvania, and Oregon. Testing is scheduled to commence on December 16, according to Vilsack. Moreover, an earlier mandate from April required testing of milk-producing cows before interstate movement. The recent order is designed to "complement and enhance" these previous measures.

As per the CDC, 57 human bird flu cases have been confirmed across seven states this year. In September, Missouri reported a case without known animal exposure, but the patient has since recovered. Recently, Arizona documented its first human cases, both involving individuals working with poultry, yet the risk to the public remains minimal.

Bird flu surfaced in China during the 1990s, subsequently spreading worldwide, affecting wildlife including sea lions, seals, and bears. Despite the current minimal risk to humans, global health officials continue to keep a watchful eye on the situation.



Vocabulary List:

1. **Mandate** /'mæn.deɪt/ (noun): An official order or commission to do something.
2. **Initiative** /ɪ'nɪʃ.ə.tɪv/ (noun): A new plan or process to achieve something or solve a problem.
3. **Alarming** /ə'ldɑ:r.mɪŋ/ (adjective): Causing worry or fear.
4. **Vigilantly** /'vɪdʒ.ɪ.lənt.li/ (adverb): In a way that is watchful and alert.
5. **Surveillance** /sər'veɪ.ləns/ (noun): Close observation especially of a suspected spy or criminal.
6. **Confirmed** /kən'fɜ:rmɪd/ (verb): Established the truth or correctness of something.

Comprehension Questions

Multiple Choice

1. What prompted the United States to begin testing its national milk supply for bird flu?
Option: Alarming spread of bird flu within US dairy herds
Option: Sudden increase in dairy consumption
Option: Government initiative for dairy product safety
Option: Global health organization recommendation
2. Who is responsible for collecting samples of raw milk for bird flu testing?
Option: World Health Organization
Option: Department of Agriculture
Option: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Option: FDA
3. Which of the following states is NOT initially included for bird flu testing?
Option: California
Option: Colorado
Option: Texas
Option: Michigan
4. What is the primary goal of the testing program as stated by the USDA?
Option: Increase dairy production
Option: Reduce human infection rates
Option: Swiftly identify affected herds



Option: Promote international trade

5. Which federal official emphasized the importance of monitoring the bird flu spread?

- Option: Tom Vilsack
- Option: Donald Trump
- Option: Joe Biden
- Option: Mike Pence

6. When is the testing scheduled to begin for the selected states?

- Option: November 1
- Option: December 16
- Option: January 31
- Option: February 14

True-False

7. The bird flu virus is easily transmitted between humans.
8. The recent order complements the mandate requiring testing of milk-producing cows before interstate movement.
9. The CDC reported over 100 human bird flu cases in the United States this year.
10. Arizona documented its first human bird flu cases involving individuals working with fish.
11. Bird flu was first identified in the United States during the 2000s.
12. Global health officials consider the risk to the public from bird flu to be high.

Gap-Fill

13. Over _____ dairy herds have fallen victim to the bird flu virus since March in California.
14. As per the CDC, _____ human bird flu cases have been confirmed across seven states this year.



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15. Ratan Naval Tata was born on _____.
16. Bird flu surfaced in China during the _____.
17. Missouri reported a human bird flu case in September without known _____ exposure.
18. The recent testing order is designed to "complement and _____" previous measures.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. Alarming spread of bird flu within US dairy herds 2. Department of Agriculture 3. Texas 4. Swiftly identify affected herds 5. Tom Vilsack 6. December 16

True-False: 7. False 8. True 9. False 10. False 11. False 12. False

Gap-Fill: 13. 700 14. 57 15. 28 December 1937 16. 1990s 17. animal 18. enhance

Vocabulary quizzes

Multiple Choice (Select the Correct answer for each question.)

1. What does the term "mandate" refer to?
- Option: A. A formal order or commission to do something.
- Option: B. A type of tropical fruit.
- Option: C. A musical instrument.
- Option: D. A scientific theory.
2. What can cause sudden increases in the number of cases of a specific disease?
- Option: A. Outbreaks
- Option: B. Endemics
- Option: C. Vaccines
- Option: D. Quarantines
3. Which of the following helps maintain a healthy balance of gut bacteria?
- Option: A. Probiotics
- Option: B. Antibiotics
- Option: C. Analgesics
- Option: D. Antihistamines
4. What term refers to the monitoring of behavior activities or other changing information for the purpose



of influencing managing directing or protecting?

- Option: A. Surveillance
- Option: B. Interference
- Option: C. Censorship
- Option: D. Repression

5. How is a pathogen spread from one host to another?

- Option: A. Transmission
- Option: B. Creation
- Option: C. Isolation
- Option: D. Absorption

6. Which branch of medicine deals with disorders of the nervous system?

- Option: A. Neurology
- Option: B. Gynecology
- Option: C. Dermatology
- Option: D. Radiology

7. Which term describes a peaceful and calm environment?

- Option: A. Serene
- Option: B. Chaotic
- Option: C. Dynamic
- Option: D. Energetic

8. What medical condition is characterized by high blood pressure?

- Option: A. Hypertension
- Option: B. Hypotension
- Option: C. Hyperthermia
- Option: D. Hypoglycemia

9. What is the process of removing moisture from something?

- Option: A. Desiccation
- Option: B. Hydration
- Option: C. Evaporation
- Option: D. Sublimation

10. What term is used for a magical or medicinal potion?

- Option: A. Elixir
- Option: B. Poison
- Option: C. Concoction
- Option: D. Tonic



Gap-Fill (Fill in the blanks with the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

11. It is important to _____ monitor the situation to prevent any security breaches.
12. The illness was caused by the parasite known as _____ .
13. Doctors identified harmful _____ in the patient's blood sample.
14. The teacher warned the students not to consume _____ amounts of sugar.
15. High levels of pollution are a _____ to respiratory problems.
16. Aquatic organisms have adapted to survive in varying levels of _____ in the water.
17. Her remarkable _____ allowed her to recover quickly from setbacks.
18. Processed foods often contain high levels of _____ .
19. While on vacation she enjoyed _____ in delicious local cuisine.
20. The increase in COVID-19 cases led to a rise in _____ in the region.

Matching Sentences (Match each definition to the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

21. The rapid spread of the virus was to health officials.
22. The government decided to implement an to control the escalating crime rates.
23. Planting trees is a way of the effects of climate change.
24. The study focused on the children's development and problem-solving skills.
25. The geologist studied the of sediments in the riverbed.
26. Conservation efforts aim to protect diverse around the world.
27. The pool water quickly disappeared due to under the scorching sun.
28. The detective found the fingerprint on the murder weapon.



29. Eating leafy greens can provide essential nutrients like for proper muscle function.

30. The process of removes moisture from wet surfaces.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. A. A formal order or commission to do something. 2. A. Outbreaks 3. A. Probiotics
4. A. Surveillance 5. A. Transmission 6. A. Neurology 7. A. Serene 8. A. Hypertension 9. A. Desiccation 10. A.
Elixir

Gap-Fill: 11. vigilantly 12. cryptosporidium 13. pathogens 14. excessive 15. precursor 16. salinity 17.
resilience 18. sodium 19. indulging 20. hospitalizations

Matching sentence: 1. alarming 2. intervention 3. mitigating 4. cognitive 5. deposition 6. ecosystems
7. evaporation 8. matching 9. magnesium 10. evaporation

CATEGORY

1. Health - LEVEL4

Date Created

2024/12/07

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