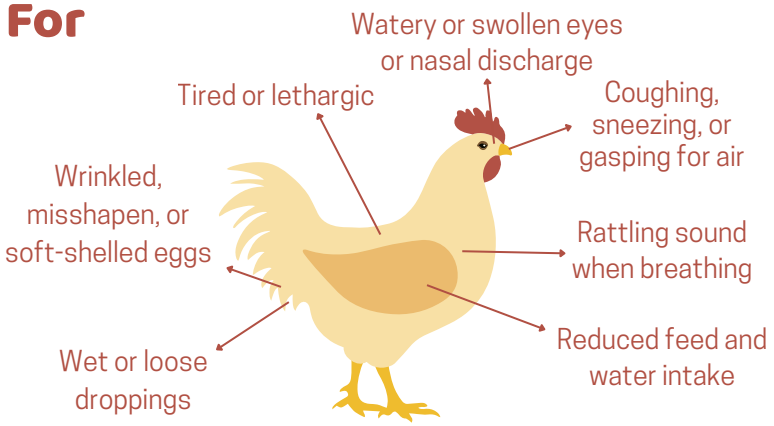
Infectious Bronchitis Virus (IBV)

SMALL FLOCKS COLLABORATIVE

Infectious bronchitis (IBV) is a very contagious virus caused by an avian coronavirus. It mainly affects chickens and causes breathing problems. Some types of IBV damage the oviduct, which can cause a drop in egg production. Infected birds may also lay eggs that are pale, misshapen, soft, or wrinkled. The virus spreads through contaminated dust, droplets, and surfaces such as equipment, clothing, or litter. Birds of all ages can get sick. The virus changes often and birds can become infected more than once.

Signs to Look For

IBV causes respiratory illness and, in young birds, can cause oviduct damage that results in poor or no egg laying for life.



Quick Facts

- IBV is caused by an avian coronavirus
- **Spreads quickly**, causes **mild to severe illness** in chicken flocks
- Detected in gamebirds and peafowl, but this is rare
- Does **not** spread to or infect humans
- Spreads through infected birds, contaminated surfaces, and respiratory droplets

How IBV Spreads

- In the air when infected birds breathe, cough, or sneeze.
- In droppings and contaminated litter.
- Through contaminated feeders or waterers.
- On shoes, clothing, tools, or equipment.

Infected birds can spread the virus for many months after infection.

Prevention

1. Practice Biosecurity

- Always limit contact with birds from other flocks to prevent disease spread.
- Wear coop-dedicated shoes to keep out germs.
- Wash hands and keep coop/equipment clean.

2. Separate New Birds

- Isolate new or returning birds away from your flock for at least 3 weeks.
- Germs can spread before birds show signs.

3. Limit Visitors and Shared Tools

- Limit visitors and require boot covers.
- Don't share or borrow tools or equipment.

4. Handle Healthy Birds First

- Care for birds in this order: young → adults → sick, to avoid spreading germs.
- Wash or sanitize hands and equipment between different bird groups.

When Birds Get Sick

1. Work with a Veterinarian

- A veterinarian can help confirm the disease and guide next steps.
- Ask your veterinarian if IBV vaccines are right for your birds.

2. Confirm with Testing

- Testing can identify the cause of disease and help guide your next steps.

3. Isolate Sick Birds

- Separate sick birds from the flock.
- This limits the chance of spreading the virus.

4. Don't Spread Disease

- Do not buy or sell birds during or after an outbreak.
- Even healthy-looking birds can shed this virus for months after infection.

Find out more at
www.healthybirds.info