# Virulent Newcastle Disease (vND)

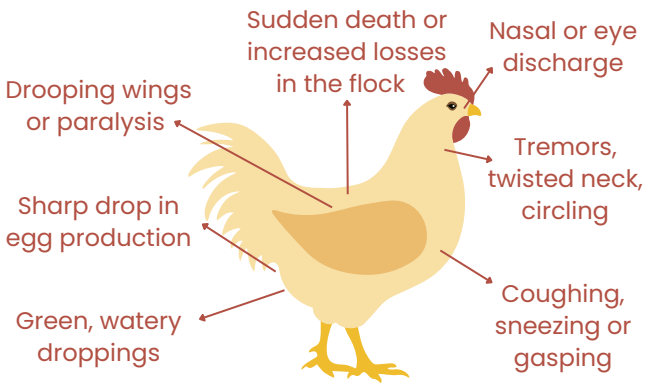
SMALL FLOCKS COLLABORATIVE

Virulent Newcastle Disease (vND) is a **fast-spreading and deadly virus** that affects chickens, turkeys, gamebirds, and pet birds. The virus attacks the bird's respiratory, digestive, and nervous systems. **Outbreaks can kill most or all birds** in a flock within days. The disease spreads quickly through contact with infected birds or droppings, contaminated equipment and clothing, and respiratory droplets in the air. People rarely can be infected, and typically have only mild eye or flu-like symptoms. vND is a reportable disease, contact your state animal health officials immediately if you have sudden deaths in your flock.

## Signs to Look For

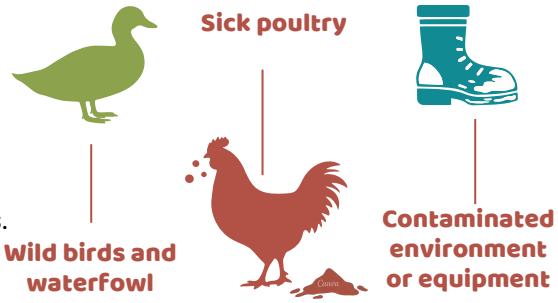
Birds may die suddenly or show signs such as coughing, gasping for air, twisted necks, walking in circles, watery green droppings, or drop in egg production.

**If multiple birds get sick or die suddenly, contact your state animal health official.**




## How vND Spreads

- Infected birds shed virus in droppings, body fluids, and respiratory droplets.
- Spreads on contaminated tools, feed, water, clothing, or shoes.
- Survives for days to weeks on surfaces.
- Wild birds and waterfowl can carry and spread the virus.




## Quick Facts

- vND is caused by a virus called avian paramyxovirus type 1
- **Highly contagious** and **deadly**
- Can rarely infect humans and cause mild flu-like symptoms or conjunctivitis
- Infected birds must be euthanized
- Infections **must be reported** to state animal health officials

## Prevention

### 1. Practice Biosecurity

- Limit contact with birds from other flocks.
- Wear coop-dedicated shoes to keep out germs.
- Keep the coop, equipment, and your hands clean.

### 2. Keep Wild Birds Out

- Wild birds and their droppings can spread disease.
- Use netting and cover feed and water.
- Keep poultry away from wild waterfowl.

### 3. Separate New Birds

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

### 4. Buy from Clean Sources

- Know where your birds come from.
- Do not buy birds from swaps, auctions, or unknown sources.

### 5. Limit Visitors and Shared Gear

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

## When Birds Get Sick

### 1. Report Immediately

- vND is highly contagious and reportable.
- Contact your veterinarian or state animal health official if you have sudden deaths in your flock.

### 2. Use Protective Gear

- Wear gloves, a mask, and clean clothes when handling birds to protect yourself from vND.

### 3. Stop Movement

- Don't move birds, eggs, or equipment on or off your property, and avoid visiting other farms to prevent spreading disease.

### 4. Clean and Disinfect

- Scrub boots, tools, and bird areas with disinfectant.
- Wait for guidance before returning birds to the space.

### 5. Disease Control Steps

- Controlling the virus may require depopulation.
- Work with state animal health official to clean, review biosecurity, and prevent future outbreaks.

Find out more at
www.healthybirds.info