Infectious Coryza

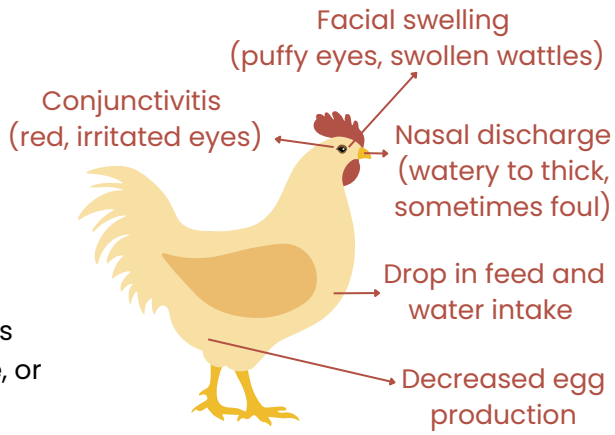
SMALL FLOCKS COLLABORATIVE

Infectious coryza is a respiratory disease of chickens caused by the bacterium *Avibacterium paragallinarum*. It causes rapid onset of upper respiratory signs and can significantly reduce egg production. The disease spreads quickly through direct contact with infected or carrier birds and contaminated equipment. Birds that recover may remain carriers and spread the bacteria, especially when stressed. Antibiotic treatment may reduce symptoms but does not eliminate carrier birds. Good biosecurity helps prevent and control disease.

Signs to Look For

Infectious coryza spreads quickly and often affects most birds in a flock.

- Spreads fast with many birds getting sick.
- Deaths are uncommon, but egg production and growth drop sharply.
- Birds already sick with other infections (like Mycoplasma, Newcastle disease, or IBV) may have more severe disease.



How It Spreads

Contact with Infected Birds

- Infected birds shed virus in saliva, nasal discharge, eye secretions, and respiratory droplets
- Carriers may look healthy but still spread infection

Contact with Contaminated Surfaces

- Sharing tools, waterers, or bedding from infected flocks
- Inhaling respiratory droplets from infected birds

Quick Facts

Avibacterium paragallinarum is a **bacteria**

Highly contagious; spreads quickly in a flock

Birds that recover often **remain** carriers

Does **not** spread to or infect humans

Affects chickens of **all ages**; especially severe in multi-age flocks

Prevention

1. Buy from Clean Sources

- Buy chicks or hatching eggs only from healthy, disease-free flocks.
- Do not buy birds from swaps, auctions, or unknown sellers.

2. Practice Biosecurity

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

3. Limit Visitors + Shared Tools

- Limit visitors; use boot covers or dedicated footwear.
- Don't share tools, feeders, or equipment between flocks.

4. Limit Spread from Carriers

- Don't mix recovered or carrier birds with new or healthy flocks.
- Keep age groups separate to reduce risk of spread.

When Birds Get Sick

1. Work with a Veterinarian

- Work with a veterinarian to confirm diagnosis and plan next steps.

2. Isolate Sick Birds

- Separate sick birds to reduce spread in the flock.

3. Clean + Disinfect the Coop Area

- Clean and remove feathers, dust, manure, and bedding.
- Wash and disinfect equipment, boots, and solid surfaces.
- Let everything dry fully before birds return.

4. Don't Spread Disease

- Do not buy or sell birds during or after an outbreak.
- Recovered birds may look healthy but can still carry and spread bacteria.

5. Manage a Flock Long-Term

- If infection continues, consider depopulating and restocking with clean birds.
- Vaccination may be recommended. Work with your veterinarian to see if this is right for your flock.

Find out more at
www.healthybirds.info