

VETERINARY PATHOLOGY DIAGNOSTIC SERVICES

Client Communication

High-Risk Zoonotic Disease Samples

Important Information for Submitting Veterinarians

To help protect staff, clients and the wider community, we'd like to remind submitting veterinarians about the correct handling and submission of **high-risk zoonotic disease samples**.

Following recent detections of avian influenza (H5N1) in parts of Australia, samples from animals **suspected or confirmed to have high-risk zoonotic infections** must be sent **directly to the appropriate government or reference laboratories**, such as the relevant State Agriculture laboratory, EMAI, or CSIRO.

For safety and biosecurity reasons, these samples **cannot be accepted by VPDS for routine testing, transport, or referral**.

Before submitting these samples, please contact the receiving laboratory to confirm:

- Testing and acceptance criteria
- Packaging and transport requirements
- Any notification or biosecurity obligations

Examples of High-Risk Zoonotic Diseases

Examples include (but are not limited to):

- Australian bat lyssavirus
- Hendra virus
- Brucella spp.
- Avian influenza
- Nipah virus

Please note that **samples from bats or flying foxes are not accepted** for testing by VPDS.

Transport and Submission Arrangements

VPDS is unable to arrange transport or referral of high-risk zoonotic disease samples to state or federal reference laboratories. All submission, transport and pre-notification arrangements should be made directly between the submitting veterinarian and the receiving laboratory.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation in helping us maintain a safe working environment and meet biosecurity requirements. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact the laboratory for advice before submitting samples

VPDS

Vetsci.vpds@sydney.edu.au / 0293517456 / vpds.sydney.edu.au

External Resources for H5 Bird Flu:

- [Wildlife Health Australia](#)
- [Resources for bird flu - DAFF](#)