

AMERICAN RACING PIGEON UNION, INC.

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April 10, 2019

Virulent Newcastle Disease Outbreak

California

In **February**, the California State Veterinarian expanded the quarantine area in Southern California to restrict movement of birds in order to eradicate virulent Newcastle Disease (vND). Poultry owners are prohibited from moving birds in all of Los Angeles County and in large parts of Riverside and San Bernardino counties.

The quarantine now extends from northern and southern borders of western Riverside County and as far east as Yucca Valley in San Bernardino County. To see specific boundaries, please go to

https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/ahfss/Animal_Health/Newcastle_Disease_Info.html

The California Department of Food and Agriculture is recommending that gatherings where birds (including but not limited to poultry) are brought together for shows, auctions, swap meets, pet marts, fair exhibits, pigeon races, and petting zoos be suspended.

We encourage members to adhere to the recommendations to avoid potentially spreading the virus or putting your birds in jeopardy.

In **March**, the California State Veterinarian announced that one chicken in a backyard flock in Alameda County had tested positive for vND and was euthanized. There have been no other cases reported in Northern California.

Utah

At this time, the case of 3 infected chickens being shipped from Southern California to Utah County appears to have been an isolated event as no further updates have been provided since January 2019.

Arizona

On **April 5, 2019**, the USDA reported that vND was confirmed in a small flock of pet chickens in Coconino County, Arizona, likely due to the close proximity of the

quarantine areas in Southern California. Testing and surveillance continue in the area.

Please do not attempt to ship birds from within quarantine areas.

The links below provide additional information.

https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/ahfss/Animal_Health/pdfs/V_N_D_SB_Riverside_Area_Quarantine.pdf

https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/ahfss/Animal_Health/Newcastle_Disease_Info.html

https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/newsroom/stakeholder-info/sa_by_date/2019/sa-04/vnd-arizona

It is important that members not allow comingling of pigeons and poultry. We also encourage members to follow recommended bio-security measures.

The AU is in contact with USDA officials and will continue to monitor the situation and advocate for pigeon fanciers.

AU Bio-Security Recommendations

Basic bio-security measures should always be used. It is more important than ever to make sure you are cleaning your loft regularly, washing hands going in and out of the loft, monitoring or perhaps restricting others from going in and out of your loft and placing new birds in a quarantine section before integrating them with your other birds. AU Bio-Security Recommendations are found at

<http://www.pigeon.org/loftcertificationpolicy.htm>