

# Mandatory stand-up talk

*Feb. 24, 2004*

## Avian flu among humans is rare

*Managers must deliver this safety talk on avian flu and associated protective measures to all available employees, beginning immediately and repeating as necessary until all employees have received this message.*

Avian flu outbreaks among humans are rare, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

**Although a risk of human transmission may exist, human to human transmission of the avian flu virus in the United States has not been documented.** No human cases of avian influenza have occurred in the U.S. after exposure to avian influenza viruses circulating in North America.

Spread of the avian flu virus through the mail or through normal activities associated with mail processing and delivery is extremely unlikely. The documented spread of the disease usually occurs through direct contact with diseased birds, their saliva or droppings.

Workers at risk for avian flu generally are those who come in **close** contact with live or dead poultry infected with avian influenza, their saliva or droppings. The risk to non-poultry industry individuals is extremely low. Standard protective measures include proper hygiene, including frequent, thorough hand-washing, particularly after contact with live or dead poultry, including raw meat products.

If you are exposed to an infected bird, its feces or saliva, wash your hands thoroughly, preferably with a waterless, alcohol-based hand sanitizer.