

Figure 1 How microbes travel

Disease	Health effects on poultry	Lifespan away from birds
Infectious Bursal disease	Lowered resistance to other diseases	Months
Coccidiosis	Diarrhea, death	Months
Duck plague	Diarrhea, death	Days
Fowl cholera	Fatal pneumonia	Weeks
Fowl coryza	Swelling around eyes, nasal discharge	Hours to days
Influenza	Severe fever, death	Days to weeks
Infectious Laryngotracheitis	Choking, death	Days
Marek's disease	Wasting, paralysis	Weeks
Newcastle disease	Colds, paralysis	Days to weeks
Mycoplasmosis	Decreased egg production, poor growth	Hours to days
Salmonellosis	Deaths soon after hatching	Weeks
Avian tuberculosis	Fatal wasting	Years

Many germs die in 2 or 3 days but, under certain conditions (such as cold damp surroundings), they survive much longer. Even with a short, 1-day survival, germs can travel several hundred miles when clinging to drivers, trucks, chicken crates, or egg-filler flats. Table 1 shows approximately how long germs can survive in empty chicken houses, on loading docks, and in other places where there are no chickens.

Source: Nathaniel L. Tablante, DVM, MPVM, MS, Diplomate ACPV, Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Maryland-LESREC.

Putting new birds, including young chicks (day-old to 2 weeks) in contact with droppings, feathers, dust and debris left over from previous flocks can be a potentially dangerous practice. Microbes can significantly increase to dangerous levels from one flock to another.

Raising different types of fowl on one farm can be risky from the standpoint of disease. Microbes that cause little or no harm to one type of fowl can be devastating to another. For instance, influenza viruses, though common and usually not bothersome in waterfowl, can produce severe disease in chickens and turkeys.

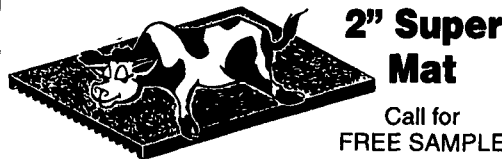
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