

Avian Encephalomyelitis (AE)

ABOUT: Avian Encephalomyelitis (AE) is a viral infection that primarily affects young chicks, causing neurological signs. In adult birds, it can reduce egg production and hatchability.

SYMPTOMS: Symptoms in chicks include ataxia, tremors, paralysis, and high mortality. In layers, AE can cause a drop in egg production and reduced hatchability due to vertical transmission through eggs.

PREVENTION: Prevention includes vaccinating breeder and layer flocks before lay to prevent vertical transmission, along with strong biosecurity measures.

GETTING TESTED: Blood samples from poultry can be tested for AE antibodies. Collect at least 0.5 mL of blood in a red- or yellow-top tube. Samples should be refrigerated after collection and shipped with an ice pack.

Tests are processed on Monday, and results are reported the same day.

