

Chicken Anemia Virus (CAV)

ABOUT: Chicken Anemia Virus (CAV) is a widespread viral infection that primarily affects young chicks, causing anemia, immunosuppression, and increased mortality. In older birds, infections may be subclinical but still impact productivity.

SYMPTOMS: Symptoms in chicks include pale combs, weakness, stunted growth, increased mortality, and secondary infections due to suppressed immunity. Older birds may show no signs but can still spread the virus.

PREVENTION: Prevention includes vaccinating breeder flocks to provide maternal antibodies, practicing strict biosecurity, and minimizing stress in young chicks.

GETTING TESTED: Blood samples from poultry can be tested for CAV 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.

