



PROTECT YOURSELF FROM HARMFUL POULTRY DUST

Poultry or chicken farming



including hatcheries
involves dusty work.

The farm workers may be breathing in high amounts of poultry dust from the air which may contain dangerous substances that can cause work related breathing (respiratory) and skin problems in some workers.

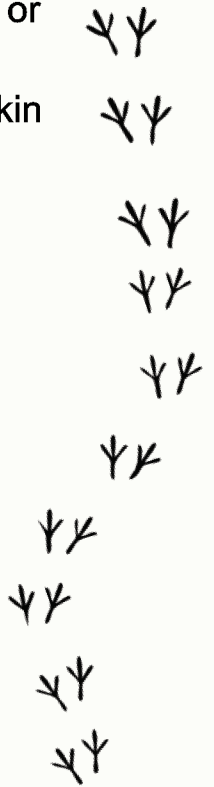
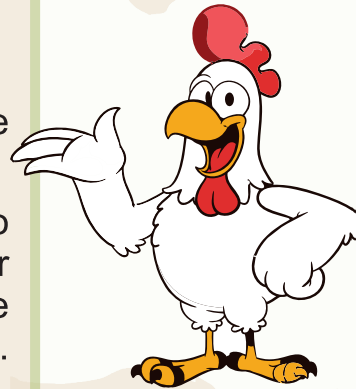
How do you protect yourself from poultry dust exposure?

- The **CORRECT** respirator “mask” must be chosen for the type of job done
- Your employer will do risk assessments to determine the most suitable respirator “mask” for you based on your job, face shape and size and health condition (e.g. asthma)
- Check if the dust respirator “mask” fit before use (**NB**. Do FIT TEST)
- Your employer must train you before using a respirator “mask”
- **ALWAYS** wear the respirator “mask” when working inside the poultry house (DO NOT REMOVE)
- **DO NOT** use nuisance or surgical masks as they do not protect you from the small dust particles which are the most dangerous
- Follow good work practices set up by your employer

What is Poultry dust?

Poultry dust is a mixture of different particles like:

- Germs called microorganisms (not seen with eyes)
- Bedding: wood shavings or shreds/straws
- Chicken feathers/dead skin
- Chicken droppings
- Chicken feed
- Mites



Jobs that release dust

- Catching and loading birds
- Loading/Offloading
- Laying bedding
- Litter removal
- Vaccinations
- Cleaning



How to wear your Respirator correctly?

- Cover your nose, mouth and chin
- Straps must be positioned correctly
- Shape the nose strip around the nose to fit where required
- Breathe deeply to check the fit and adjust the mask if needed
- Respirators must be changed when breathing becomes difficult



What to do when you suspect your work make you sick?

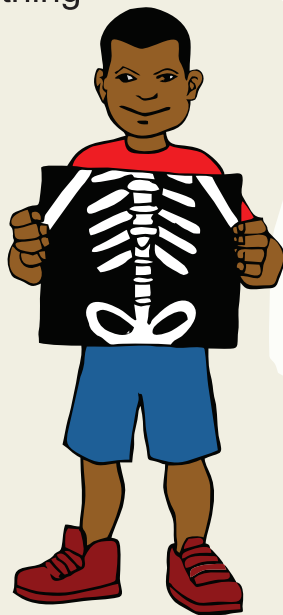
Report symptoms to:

- Occupational health clinic sister
- Your doctor for diagnosis and treatment
- Health and safety representative
- Employer ("company")

Signs of respiratory disease

The common breathing problems in poultry workers include:

- Difficulty in breathing
- Chest tightness
- Throat irritation
- Eye irritation
- Runny nose
- Headache
- Wheezing
- Coughing
- Sneezing
- Phlegm
- Fever



Duties of employer ("company")

Occupational Health and Safety Act (OHSA) of 1993 requires employers to adequately protect the workers

- Assess the risk at work
- Control the dust levels to 10 mg/m³
- Provide personal protective clothing and equipment
- Monitor health of workers (surveillance)
- Ensure good air flow (ventilation)
- Provide showers and basins for workers

