

Thoughts on vaccination against virulent Newcastle Disease (vND) from UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine-Cooperative Extension

First and foremost focus on good management and biosecurity to protect your backyard birds. This is the "lowest hanging fruit" with respect to protecting your flock. The virus can easily spread easily from contaminated birds to your birds via feces, respiratory excretions, feed, clothing, and equipment. Tips for preventing disease transmission via biosecurity can be found [here](#).

If you purchase poultry internationally, poultry should be bought only from suppliers who can certify that the birds have been imported legally or bred in the U.S., and are healthy.

In short use common sense and good biosecurity!

In addition to biosecurity, vaccines are appropriate to consider if you live in affected areas and want an extra level of protection. However, vaccines are not a "bandaid" for poor management.

The LaSota and B1 vaccines are often available from feed stores. Make sure they are licensed in the U.S. In addition follow the instructions and/or consult a veterinarian. A list of small animal veterinarians who treat poultry in California by county can be found [here](#)

The best way to deliver the vaccine is via the eye drop method.

Be aware that the vaccines can produce some mild clinical signs including a drop in egg production and some mild respiratory signs.

Be aware that vaccinations against vND often need to be given at least 2x a year to remain efficacious.

Again, vaccination is not a substitute for good biosecurity which is the best way to prevent your flock from getting infected from all infectious diseases including vND.

Lastly, use your [network](#). If you suspect you have a sick bird (vND or other) UC Davis, the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) and the California Animal Health and Food Safety Lab (CAHFS) have resources to help answer questions. Feel free to contact Dr. Maurice Pitesky from the UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine-Cooperative Extension at mepitesky@ucdavis.edu or 530-219-1407 if you have questions, comments or suggestions.