



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

APHA Briefing Note 12/23

Update to the Notifiable Disease Outbreak Training Course for Avian Influenza.

Date issued: 02 March 2023

Purpose

To inform OV's that the Notifiable Disease Outbreak Training (NDOT) course delivered through Improve International was updated on 23 February 2023.

To notify OV's holding the NDOT course of a new arrangement for expiry of access to the course.

Background

Course Updates

The NDOT course was introduced in January 2021 to provide training for veterinary surgeons deployed to carry out Avian Influenza (AI) outbreak work through the Veterinary Delivery Partners (VDPs). The main role for these vets at the time was to carry out surveillance visits.

VDP OV's have since taken on a wider range of outbreak roles and the training course has been updated to reflect those additional roles.

Licensing inspections are now also being carried out by non-VDP OV's.

The training has a new layout and has been updated significantly throughout but the main new areas are a more detailed section on report cases (in Module 3) and a new section on welfare (in Module 4).

The course has been renamed as NDOT – AI.

Expiry of Course Access

APHA is an Executive Agency of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and also works on behalf of the Scottish Government, Welsh Government and Food Standards Agency to safeguard animal and plant health for the benefit of people, the environment and the economy.

On 7 September 2022, APHA Briefing Note 32/22 detailed a process for expiring access to the NDOT course every six months. After expiry, OVs were required to repeat the training before carrying out further AI related work.

With the release of the new course, the expiry deadline has changed.

The following now applies:

- OVs who completed the course *before* 24 February 2023 will have their course access expired six months after their completion date.
- OVs completing the course *from* 24 February 2023 until 31 August 2023 will all have their access expired on 1 September 2023, regardless of the date that they completed the course.
- Moving forward, everyone will have their access expired annually on 1 September.

For all of the above, once access is expired, OVs will be required to repeat the training before carrying out further AI related work.

Action

OVs who completed the NDOT course within the previous six months will automatically have access to the NDOT – AI course. Although completion of the new course content is not yet mandatory for these OVs, those carrying out or intending to carry out AI outbreak work are encouraged to access the course to review the new training material. OVs should note that reviewing the updated course within six months of completing the previous course will not alter the date that their access is due to expire.

OVs intending to carry out AI work must check the NDOT status on their Personal Training Dashboard and ensure that it is recorded as 'Completed'. OVs are reminded that in order to access their CPD certificate, the short post-course self-evaluation must be completed on their Personal Training Dashboard.

OVs are encouraged to provide feedback after completing the course. This feedback is used to help APHA and Improve International enhance the learning experience.

Further Information

For queries relating to the course content please the APHA OV Team:

CSCOneHealthOVTeam@apha.gov.uk

For technical queries please contact Improve International: <https://improve-ov.com/home/>