

May 24, 2006

Gordon Food Service® Statement regarding Avian Influenza (Bird flu)

Gordon Food Service® is currently evaluating and developing a pandemic influenza response plan based on the checklist published by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). When a suitable document has been prepared, it will be posted on our website, www.gfs.com.

As a distributor and not a manufacturer, we do not presume to be experts on the subject of avian flu. However, customers can expect that Gordon Food Service® and our suppliers are following and will comply with all USDA directives on this issue. It is also important to consider that Gordon Food Service does not source any poultry from outside the United States and currently the United States' food supply has been deemed safe.

The scientific name for bird flu is H5N1 Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza or H5N1 HPAI. We do not have and never had H5N1 HPAI in the United States. Furthermore, you can feel confident that you **cannot** get the human form of avian influenza from properly handled and cooked food. The heat of normal cooking destroys the virus that causes avian influenza. Microorganisms of all kinds are destroyed when the product reaches an internal temperature of 160 degrees Fahrenheit. *Source: www.avianinfluenzainfo.com*

The severity of unexpected events such as avian influenza, power outages, severe snowstorms, natural disasters, or terrorist activities and other variables could dictate our ability to provide supplies to our customers. As suggested by Federal guidelines, customers providing emergency response and healthcare will be given a higher priority.

We encourage our customers to go through the same emergency response planning exercise for their business. This checklist can be found at <http://pandemicflu.gov/plan/businesschecklist.html>.

Customers who are interested in information on Avian Influenza can be directed to the following websites:

Avian Influenza:	www.avianinfluenzainfo.com
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:	www.cdc.gov/flu/avian/facts.htm
U. S. Department of Agriculture:	www.usda.gov
U.S Department of Health and Human Services:	www.pandemicflu.gov

You can rest assured that Gordon Food Service will continue to make every effort in providing our customers with excellent service they have come to expect.

Jeff Howard
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