

WHAT IS INFECTIOUS BRONCHITIS?

Infectious Bronchitis is an acute, highly contagious upper respiratory tract disease in chickens. This virus can also affect other organs including the kidneys and the oviduct. The virus has a worldwide distribution with some virus types having a global distribution while others have regional distributions. Infectious Bronchitis Virus is shed by infected chickens through respiratory discharges and through the faeces.

- Infectious Bronchitis can affect all production types and it can affect young chicks, chickens in rear and chickens in production
- Young chickens may be depressed and huddle together



Young chick showing dyspnoea/difficulty breathing

- Respiratory signs - conjunctivitis, difficulty breathing, coughing, tracheal rales and nasal discharge
- Feed intake and weight gain may be reduced
- Birds in lay have a marked drop in egg production, up to 70 %, and an increased number of poor-quality eggs may be produced
- Egg production may return to normal, but this can take a few weeks
- The external and internal quality of the eggs may be affected, resulting in misshapen or soft-shelled eggs with watery content



Misshapen, pale and soft-shelled eggs

- The hatchability rate of the eggs may be affected
- When the kidneys are affected, increased water intake, depression, scouring and wet litter are commonly observed
- Infection of very young chicks with a specific strain of Infectious Bronchitis may result in permanent damage to the oviduct, leading to a syndrome known as false layers in which the affected bird will not be able to lay any eggs

WHAT CAN WE SEE IN CHICKENS INFECTED WITH INFECTIOUS BRONCHITIS?

WHAT MAY BE SEEN IN CHICKENS THAT HAVE BEEN INFECTED BY INFECTIOUS BRONCHITIS?



WHAT ACTION IS REQUIRED TO TRY AND PREVENT INFECTIOUS BRONCHITIS ON YOUR FARM?

Biosecurity



- Thorough clean out and disinfection between flocks using the correct chemicals at the correct concentration for the correct amount of time

Vaccination

- **Live vaccines** live vaccines used as primer and booster vaccines in rearing and for local protection of the upper respiratory tract in rearing and production
- **Inactivated vaccines** inactivated vaccines for long term protection and early protection of chicks from vaccinated parents
- **Purchase high quality chicks from a reputable hatchery where good quality day old Infectious Bronchitis vaccinations are carried out**

The Protectotype Concept is the concept whereby 2 specific, different, MSD Animal Health Infectious Bronchitis vaccines are administered to chickens in a strategic way to provide broad spectrum protection against several different Infectious Bronchitis virus strains. One of these vaccines belongs to the Massachusetts (Mass) group of Infectious Bronchitis strains while the other is a variant Infectious Bronchitis strain. Speak to your MSD representative for more information on this broad spectrum IB protection approach.

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Tracheitis

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Pale kidneys – nephropathogenic strains of Infectious Bronchitis may cause this

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Secondary bacterial infection

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Cystic oviduct in a bird infected early on in life by a specific strain of Infectious Bronchitis

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Airsacculitis

SUGGESTED VACCINATION PROGRAMMES

BROILERS



Hatchery Spray
Live MSD Mass IB strain
Live MSD variant IB strain



Repeat live MSD Mass IB strain in high challenge area at 14 days

LONG LIVE BIRDS



HATCHERY
Mass strain IB vaccine
Variant strain IB vaccine



REAR
Mass strain IB vaccine:
14 days
Mass strain IB vaccine +
Variant strain IB vaccine
6 weeks + 12 weeks



REAR
Inactivated IB multi vaccine:
16 weeks



PRODUCTION
Live IB vaccines:
Every 6 weeks
Mass strain IB vaccine +
Variant strain IB vaccine

OX strain vaccines may be added to the vaccination programme where necessary.

Ask your MSD Animal Health representative for more information on our Protectotype Infectious Bronchitis broad spectrum protection solution.