

Veterinary Biosecurity Protocols for Hive Inspections

Before inspection:

- Always keep the following in your vehicle:
 - Extra jacket
 - Extra hive tools
 - Garbage bags
 - Bleach wipes
- Sanitize your hive tool: scrub it using steel wool and 70% ethanol or rubbing alcohol

During inspection:

- Wear disposable gloves. Two layers are ideal, so that you can change the outer layer easily (the inner layer can get stuck to your hands with sweat!).
- If a brood disease (EFB, chalkbrood, etc.) is suspected, change gloves and sanitize your hive tool
- If AFB is suspected, stop the inspection immediately (see below)

After inspection/between sites (if AFB is not suspected):

- Change gloves
- Sanitize hive tool

If AFB is suspected:

- Gather a brood sample to submit to the USDA (see [VIDEO](#))
- Stop the inspection immediately (you can re-schedule the rest for another day)
- Change gloves
- Sanitize hive tool
- Put bee jacket in a garbage bag - take home to wash
- Put on a new bee jacket
- Wipe down any other equipment or high-touch surfaces (like your car's steering wheel) with bleach wipes
- Instruct the beekeeper to leave the suspected hive closed until they receive results
- Drive to the post office and mail the sample (see video for instructions)
 - If the test comes back negative, re-schedule the hive inspection
 - If AFB is confirmed, alert the beekeeper and report the case to the MDAR apiary program (contact info). MDAR will ensure that the appropriate response is taken.

This resource was created by UMass Extension, in collaboration with the Massachusetts Department of Agriculture and The Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University.

For more honey bee veterinary resources visit:

<https://aq.umass.edu/resources/pollinators/resources-for-veterinarians>

To learn more about the project visit:

<https://aq.umass.edu/resources/pollinators/research-projects-at-umass/ma-bee-veterinarian-project>

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