Keep vaccine preparation rooms biosecure

Biosecurity is crucial in ensuring the long-term health of day-old chicks.

Vaccine preparation rooms play a central role in this process, being locations where vaccines and diluents are handled. If not treated with due care, bacteria and other pathogens can contaminate the vaccine batches, which are injected into the chicks as they are vaccinated. Stringent biosecurity control and isolation measures are essential.

To prevent cross-contamination in the vaccine preparation room, follow these recommendations:

- **Make sure that the room is well-sealed at all points. Keep the door shut when not in use.**
- **Ventilation should be set up so that the room static pressure is maintained at a higher value than that of any of the surrounding rooms to stop dirty air from entering the room. Use an air sanitiser to keep bacterial levels in the air low.**
- **Before entering the room, staff should put on fresh PPE (lab coats, masks, gloves and face shields). Shoes should be changed before entering the room. Hands should be washed and sanitised before entry.**
- **Set up a regular cleaning and disinfection program of room surfaces and equipment at the end of each hatch day, using approved and effective products. Check that it is done, and include the room in the regular hygiene swabbing of the whole hatchery.**
- **Restrict access to the room to approved and trained staff only.**
- **Don't share equipment between different areas if possible. If unavoidable, ensure the equipment is thoroughly cleaned, disinfected, and swabbed before entry.**
- **Maintain a rolling program of staff training so that all hatchery employees know why the room needs special treatment and the consequences if anything goes wrong.**

Maintaining biosecure vaccine preparation areas in hatcheries is vital for protecting animal health and the economic success of the operation. Strict adherence to biosecurity protocols ensures that vaccines are prepared and administered effectively, protecting the birds and the operators involved in the process. To achieve this goal, monitoring all possible details that might negatively influence hatch quality and field performance is necessary.