

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Ontario Update

May 6, 2022

On behalf of the Feather Board Command Centre (FBCC), the following provides important updates regarding the highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) situation in Ontario.

THE CURRENT SITUATION

As of May 6, 2022, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) has confirmed the presence of HPAI, subtype H5N1 on 24 premises in the province. Since our last update (April 26), HPAI has been confirmed in the following regions in Ontario (click on the location name to access the 10km FBCC buffered biosecurity advisory area):

- 1 premise in [Huron County](#) (poultry flock)
- 1 premise in [York Region](#) (poultry flock)
- 1 premise in [Wellington County](#) (small flock)
- 1 premise in [Halton Region](#) (small flock)
- 1 premise in [York Region](#) (poultry flock)
- 1 premise in [York Region](#) (poultry flock)

Each confirmed infected premise has been placed under quarantine. CFIA has also established specific movement control measures and permitting processes (as outlined below).

In the last week, HPAI has also been confirmed in poultry flocks in Alberta, British Columbia, Quebec and Saskatchewan. Details can be found [here](#). HPAI has been detected in poultry in 32 states in the United States of America. Details can be found [here](#).

FOR FARMERS AND INDUSTRY IN BIOSECURITY ADVISORY AREAS

CFIA continues to establish Primary Control Zones (PCZ), in the areas where the disease has been identified. The most up-to-date information can be found using the following links:

- [Map: Avian Influenza Control Zones – Ontario](#)
- [Physical road boundary descriptions of Primary Control Zones](#)
- [Notice to industry](#)
- [Permits and movement permissions](#)

CRITICAL REMINDERS FOR ALL POULTRY FARMERS & INDUSTRY STAKEHOLDERS

On March 26, 2022, FBCC announced the entire Ontario poultry industry MUST follow heightened biosecurity measures (found [here](#)). Farmers are reminded that they should have appropriate biosecurity personal protective equipment (PPE) available for themselves, their employees and anyone entering their premise.



With the arrival of unpredictable spring weather, it's important to note that the AI virus survives best in cool, wet conditions and survives well in freezing temperatures. It can also survive in the following conditions:

- In dry poultry manure - up to 35 days at 4 degrees Celsius and 7 days at 20 degrees C.
- In wet manure - up to 100 days at 4 degrees and 7 days at 25 degrees C.
- In water - 94 to 160 days at a temperature of 19 degrees C.

Refer to FBCC's [heightened biosecurity during spring planting](#) resource for guidelines to limit spread. The Poultry Industry Council has a number of resources available on their [website](#) on avian influenza, signs and symptoms, biosecurity protocols, etc., for commercial farms and small flocks.

The Government of Canada has wild bird AI handling guidelines for hunters and members of the public. Details can be found [here](#).

Please be reminded of the Ontario Government's Order that limits the commingling of birds from different locations in order to reduce the risk of disease transmission. The full order can be found [here](#).

Should birds show any signs of illness, farmers are to call their veterinarian, immediately. It is also recommended they contact the 24-hour FBCC support line, 1-877-SOS-BYRD and their respective Board office.

ACCESS ADDITIONAL SUPPORT

The Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) has resources available to help people navigate these difficult times. Visit their [Mental Health for Farmers – First Aid Kit](#) or call 1-866-267-6255 for the Farmer Wellness Initiative, which provides farmers and members of their household access to free counselling sessions with a mental health professional.

STAY INFORMED

FBCC is committed to providing timely communications to Ontario's poultry industry and will continue to keep you updated as the situation evolves. FBCC staff are collaborating with CFIA and OMAFRA in responding to the situation and working to support business continuity for the poultry industry. If you haven't already done so, please sign up for FBCC Disease Alerts at www.fbcc.ca. Continue to visit www.fbcc.ca for more information and join the HPAI Daily Update Series (found [HERE](#)).

