

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Update

June 22, 2022

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

Since the beginning of the outbreak on March 25, there have been 20 commercial and six small flocks infected across the province. Seven flocks are from the four Ontario feather boards. There have been no additional positive cases since May 18. Recovery is now well underway. Due to the successful completion of specific disease response milestone activities as prescribed by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), infected zones (the 3km zone around infected premises) have now been released for all but two zones.

Post outbreak surveillance is in progress in several PCZs, with farmers submitting weekly Flock Health Questionnaires to CFIA. If there are no further disease detections during the post outbreak surveillance period and all POS requirements have been met, CFIA will consider revoking the PCZ. More information is available using the following links:

[Post Outbreak Surveillance](#)

[Revoking Primary Control Zones](#)

Updates on HPAI zones can be found on the CFIA website: [Highly pathogenic avian influenza zones - Canadian Food Inspection Agency \(canada.ca\)](#). More information on CFIA permits and conditions needed for movement control can be [found here](#).

FOR FARMERS AND INDUSTRY IN PRIMARY CONTROL ZONES

Flock Health Questionnaires

As a reminder, now that many of the PCZs are now entering the Post Outbreak Surveillance (POS) stage, all commercial farmers (more than 300 birds) in the PCZs must submit weekly Flock Health Questionnaires (FHQ) for the Zone to eventually become revoked. Post-outbreak surveillance in the PCZ is required for a minimum of 28 days after primary decontamination at the infected premises is complete. This means the CFIA needs to receive FHQs weekly for at least four weeks after the PCZ has entered post-outbreak surveillance. FHQs must be completed each day and submitted every week, and on-time.

A reminder that until the PCZ has been revoked, you are also required to continue to meet all aspects of the current movement control rules. Specific movement permits may not be issued unless all current requirements are met including pre-movement testing and submission of FHQs.



Dead Bird Surveillance (DBS)

CFIA offers the option of dead bird surveillance (DBS) as an alternative to on-farm live bird testing as part of the requirements for live birds moving in or out of a PCZ. This option poses the least biosecurity risk and has a lower animal welfare impact.

As a reminder, CFIA requires that **two DBS protocols** be completed in the week preceding your shipment. The DBS cannot be back-to-back days. Please ensure you plan adequately and contact CFIA ahead of time for ALL your planned bird shipment(s) to schedule your DBS pickup and adhere closely to the instructions provided by CFIA as to sampling and tote cleaning protocols.

HPAI UPDATE SERIES – NEW SCHEDULE

FBCC's HPAI Update Series, designed for farmers who are in the zone(s) and industry personnel that conduct business within/through the zone(s), are now being held once a week - **every Thursday at 12 noon** until further notice.

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](#)). Even though we continue to make progress towards a return to normal, farmers are reminded that they should have appropriate biosecurity personal protective equipment (PPE) available for themselves, their employees and anyone entering their premise.

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 visit the [FBCC website](#) and sign up for Disease Alerts.

