

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Ontario Update

May 16, 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 16, 2022, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) has confirmed the presence of HPAI, subtype H5N1 on 25 premises in the province. Since our last update (May 6), HPAI has been confirmed in the following region in Ontario (click on the location name to access the 10km FBCC buffered biosecurity advisory area):

- 1 premise in [York Region](#) (poultry flock)

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

84 flocks in nine Canadian provinces have been infected to date. Approximately 40% of these are small flocks. Details on additional premises in other provinces can be found [here](#). HPAI has been detected in 310 poultry flocks in 34 states in the United States of America. Details can be found [here](#).

In addition to responding to the HPAI situation in the province, FBCC also issued a stand down notice for farmers in the Infectious Laryngotracheitis (ILT) biosecurity advisory area in Niagara.

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](#)

CFIA has provided a copy of their [HPAI Timeline of Disease Response Activities presentation](#). This presentation outlines the steps each infected premise must complete as we progress through this response. While the information outlines the shortest timeline possible, individual factors at each location will affect each premise's timeline.

DEAD BIRD SURVEILLANCE (DBS) PROGRAM – NOW AN AVAILABLE ALTERNATIVE

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 Primary Control Zone (PCZ). This option poses the least biosecurity risk and has a lower animal welfare impact.



What you need to know:

1. CFIA requires that **two DBS protocols** be completed in the week preceding your shipment. The DBS cannot be back-to-back days.
2. Plan adequately and contact CFIA ahead of time for ALL your planned bird shipment(s) to schedule your DBS pickup
3. Adhere closely to the instructions provided by CFIA as to sampling and tote cleaning protocols

DAILY HPAI UPDATE SERIES – NEW SCHEDULE

FBCC's Daily HPAI Update Series, designed for farmers who are in the zone(s) and industry personnel that conduct business within/through the zone(s), will be changing. Effective Tuesday, May 24, these calls **will occur each Tuesday and Thursday at 12 noon** until further notice. There will be no call on Monday, May 23rd. Daily calls for the week of May 16th will proceed as normal.

CHANGE IN FBCC COMMUNICATION PROTOCOLS

Given we are now in week eight of the response and all farmers and industry should be following heightened biosecurity protocols, the FBCC Board has made a change in how advisories will be issued for the duration of the response. Effective immediately, elevated mortality and/or decreased production advisories will only be issued upon positive lab results from the Animal Health Laboratory in Guelph. Once CFIA has confirmed the presence of HPAI and posted this to their website, FBCC will then issue a confirmation advisory.

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.

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

