



A joint message from the Ontario chicken industry

Continued safeguarding of the Ontario Broiler Chicken Industry against COVID-19

April 8, 2021 – As Ontario weathers the third wave of the pandemic amid rising COVID-19 case counts including new coronavirus variants, your Ontario chicken industry value chain partners – The Association of Ontario Chicken Processors (AOCP), Chicken Farmers of Ontario (CFO), Ontario Broiler Hatching Egg and Chick Commission (OBHECC), Ontario Agri Business Association (OABA), Ontario Hatcheries Association (OHA), and Poultry Service Association (PSA) - would like to remind all members of the industry of the following joint health and safety measures:

FOR CFO FARMER-MEMBERS & OBHECC PRODUCERS:

Health and safety measures that must be implemented by Ontario broiler chicken farmers during the COVID-19 pandemic:

1. **BE EXTRA VIGILANT** – Do your part to reduce the risk to public health and supply chain disruptions
2. **ON-FARM VISITORS** - Physical distancing is critical to stopping the spread of COVID-19
 - Limit exposure by limiting on-farm visits as much as possible
 - Restrict non-essential visitors from accessing the farm
 - Farmers must ensure they practice physical distancing when industry personnel are on-farm
 - **Stay at least six feet away from others**
 - It is strongly recommended that while industry stakeholders are present, all individuals wear a mask in the barn
 - It is recommended that farmers develop, maintain, and continuously review a COVID-19 prevention and control plan for your farm (reference the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) [Prevention, Control and Outbreak Support Strategy for COVID-19 in Ontario's Farm Workers](#) as a resource)
 - As part of this plan, farmers should document the attendance of all workers, industry stakeholders, and visitors – including their name, date, previous poultry contact, and contact information – and conduct daily screening for all workers and visitors prior to entry on to the farm
3. **SELF-ISOLATION PROTOCOL** – Physical distancing is critical to stopping the spread of COVID-19
 - Farmers who have been exposed to or suspect exposure to COVID-19 must self-isolate and follow Ontario Ministry of Health (MOH) guidelines
 - Farmers who are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 must self isolate and follow MOH guidelines

- Farmers who have traveled outside of Canada must self-isolate for 14 days upon return, as per MOH guidelines
 - Farmers who are self-isolating should not go to work or be in their barns
 - Farmers who are self-isolating must not be present while industry personnel are on their farm. They must designate an alternate person to be present or be available by telephone during this time
 - CFO farmer-members who are self-isolating must notify CFO at covid19@ontariochicken.ca and any applicable industry stakeholders who are required to visit their farm
4. **HANDWASHING & SANITATION** - Proper hand washing and sanitation is critical to stopping the spread of COVID-19
- Farmers must ensure strict sanitization protocols and practice MOH handwashing guidelines
 - Farmers must thoroughly wipe down any common-area surfaces and entry point(s) to the barn with disinfectant
 - As applicable, farmers must suspend the availability of in-house washrooms for industry personnel use
 - farmers must provide handwashing facilities and sanitation supplies for industry personnel to use
 - CFO farmers must adhere to the new CFO minimum standards for On-Farm Washroom and Handwashing Facilities, which specify that all farm premises must have non-residential washroom facilities that are regularly maintained, well lit, private, and provide toilet paper and proper hand hygiene capabilities by making alcohol-based hand rub or soap and running water available – [CLICK HERE](#) to review

FOR INDUSTRY STAKEHOLDERS:

Health and safety measures that must be implemented by Ontario broiler chicken industry personnel during the COVID-19 pandemic as it pertains to going on-farm:

1. **BE EXTRA VIGILANT** – Do your part to reduce the risk to public health and supply chain disruptions
2. **GOING ON-FARM** - Physical distancing is critical to stopping the spread of COVID-19
 - Limit exposure by limiting on-farm visits as much as possible
 - Industry personnel must ensure they practice physical distancing when on-farm
 - **Stay at least six feet away from others**
 - **It is strongly recommended that industry personnel wear a mask while inside barns**
3. **SELF-ISOLATION PROTOCOL** – Physical distancing is critical to stopping the spread of COVID-19
 - Industry personnel who have been exposed to, or suspect exposure to COVID-19 must self-isolate and follow Ontario Ministry of Health (MOH) guidelines
 - Industry personnel who are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 must self isolate and follow MOH guidelines



- Industry personnel who have traveled outside of Canada must self-isolate for 14 days upon return, as per MOH guidelines
 - Industry personnel must follow additional guidelines as stipulated by their independent employers and/or associations
4. **HANDWASHING & SANITATION** - Proper hand washing and sanitation is critical to stopping the spread of COVID-19
- Industry personnel must practice MOH hand washing guidelines

Together, we are committed to ensuring the Ontario broiler chicken industry remains reliable and strong during the pandemic. Collectively, we are working hard to ensure Ontarians have access to a steady supply of fresh, locally grown chicken.

Additional Resources:

- ontariochicken.ca COVID-19 Information section
- [Ontario Ministry of Health COVID-19 guidelines](#)
- [Prevention, Control and Outbreak Support Strategy for COVID-19 in Ontario's Farm Workers](#)
- [Provincial and Federal COVID-19 Financial Supports for Farmers](#)
- [2021 Information Resources for Poultry Producers](#)
- [Public Health Agency of Canada \(PHAC\) factsheet on COVID-19](#)
- [PHAC Coronavirus disease \(COVID-19\): Prevention and risks](#)
- [Canadian Agricultural Human Resource Council regarding COVID-19](#)
- [World Animal Health Organisation \(OIE\) Questions and Answers on COVID-19](#)

Questions about this communication?

- CFO farmer-members should e-mail covid19@ontariochicken.ca
- OBHECC producers should e-mail info@obhecc.com
- Industry personnel should contact their individual employers and/or associations