

New Infected Premises (IPs)

There has been one new detection of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in British Columbia since our last industry update on December 1. The new infected premise is BC-IP-154 – a turkey and broiler farm in Chilliwack. Destruction was completed on December 4. All previously identified infected farms have been depopulated and all farms are in the process of disposal or cleaning and disinfection.

The EOC continues to communicate IP information to the allied trades to ensure they have up-to-date information to plan their movements and activities to prevent spread of disease and manage risk in their activities.

Please continue to report any unusual or unexpected mortality to the CFIA's sick bird line. The phone number is 403.338.5225.

Dead Bird Surveillance

CFIA has prioritized farms in the 0-3 km zone for Dead Bird Surveillance (DBS). If you are in a 0-3 km zone, you must participate in DBS using your blue bins. **If you do not routinely participate you will go back to live bird testing at your own expense.**

Outbreak Update and Information Webinar

Join us on December 19 at 11:30 am for a webinar that will provide an update on the outbreak, information on the potential human health risk, distinct unit application details, and an overview of provincial business risk management programs available to producers. We will conclude with a panel discussion from all of our presenters and answer questions submitted by the audience.

To register, visit [this link](#), or click the link below.

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_3vUyvATcQUS_03zr4tQmsQ

Help Us Improve Our Communications to You

The EOC is looking for your feedback on how and what we communicate. We know that producers and allied trade members receive information from multiple pathways. We want to ensure that the information we are providing you is timely and relevant to you and your business. Please complete the survey at the link below, or by clicking [here](#) by December 23.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/EOCCOMMS23>

Biosecurity Reminder – REMOVE STANDING WATER!

The recent heavy rainfall has Fraser Valley water tables extremely high and it's timely to remind everyone to manage the water on farms diligently. Standing water can attract wild birds and rodents and we know the HPAI virus can persist for extended periods in water. Be sure you are removing any standing water quickly to reduce the potential for the virus to take hold on your farm.

CFIA Phone Calls

Producers/Growers should be aware that CFIA staff members may be calling you from blocked numbers or from numbers outside of BC. While we have asked them to avoid this wherever possible, they can't always comply with our request. As a result of not recognizing a number, some producers/growers are not answering their phones when CFIA calls and this results in challenges particularly related to

movement and surveillance requirements. Try to answer your phone when an unknown or out-of-province number calls. CFIA will leave a voicemail and a contact number, so if you miss a call (or choose not to answer) please call them back promptly.

Clarity on Linked Operations and Biosecurity Guidance

The producer update from December 1 contained some guidance from CFIA for producers related to the Distinct Unit Application. We understand that some of the wording in that policy has raised concerns, and we wanted to provide some clarity. The CFIA policies reflect the requirements of member countries of the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH). The information below has been provided by CFIA.

The WOAH definition of an epidemiological unit is used for the purposes of applying a stamping-out policy in response to a confirmed case of HPAI. EPIDEMIOLOGICAL UNIT refers to a group of animals with the same likelihood of exposure to a pathogenic agent.

The determination of an epidemiological unit is made on a case-by-case basis, with consideration given to the following:

- *Farmed birds (susceptible species housed on the infected premises) are considered one epidemiological unit (in reference to a confirmed case) where:*
 - *the farmed birds (commercial and non-commercial) are:*
 - *owned by the same owner(s) or have common ownership or have the same business name(s) AND*
 - *located on the same land parcel (place) and/or contiguous land parcel**
- *the farmed birds are owned by different owners but are located on the same land parcel (place)*

Note: A premise that is artificially separated by a premise identification (PID) boundary should not be automatically considered a separate epidemiological unit.

**in general, if two land parcels are contiguous and are under the same ownership and management (regular and significant sharing of personnel, equipment, and possibly shared mortality/manure management), they will be considered one epidemiological unit unless mitigating biosecurity and management practices are in place (such as absence of shared personnel and equipment, independent mortality/manure management).*

CFIA's policy of stamping out applies to all birds in an epidemiological unit. In the case where a producer believes that a population of birds has complete physical and functional separation from the other populations of birds on an infected premises (as determined by self-evaluation using the Distinct Unit Assessment tool), they can submit a request for CFIA to evaluate this. Our review consists of documentation review (the Distinct Unit Self-Assessment, completed by the producer; biosecurity SOPs; flock health attestations) and an onsite biosecurity audit. If all of the criteria (distance + management practices) are met and have been in place during the critical period (i.e. such that likelihood of exposure of the animals is different between the units), those birds may be exempt from depopulation subject to ongoing surveillance monitoring (via dead bird surveillance).

Premises that are within 200m of an infected premises are automatically considered High Risk Contact Premises (HRCP) due to proximity. Additional premises may be identified as HRCP due to movement of

personnel, birds, or equipment; or if they are part of a “duck network.” The criteria describing HRCP are as described below.

As mentioned above, a distinct unit application may be considered when there is a clear differentiation in operations on or near an infected farm, which can demonstrate a clear separation of activity and practice that would minimize potential overlap and thus, exposure of the uninfected flock to disease through people or equipment. This would only be considered if it is part of everyday operations and the distinct operation has been implemented and practised for the 21 days prior to the detection of the infected facility.

The High Risk Contact Policy (HRCP) defines the standard policy of how CFIA determines when a neighbouring or nearby flock (on another premises) can be allowed to remain and will be placed under increased surveillance. This is the standard policy adopted by CFIA and has been in place throughout this outbreak.

Conditions of the HRCP designation:

In terms of premises designated as High-Risk Contacts, the criteria that are considered are the following:

- Direct or indirect contacts (such as employees, equipment etc. being shared between the IP and other premises)
- Any poultry production buildings on a premises located within 200 meters from a poultry production building on an infected premises (IP)
- A premises is part of an Anseriformes (duck/geese) production network associated with an infected Anseriformes premises

Please note that premises located in the 0-1 km radius around an IP are not considered a HRCP, unless they meet one of the above listed reasons. They will have stricter requirements related to movements than premises located 1-3 km from the IP simply because they are closer and more at risk of disease spread.

Release criteria of the HRCP designation are the following:

- Premises is an HRCP due to contact: Date of last contact is Day 0
- Premises is an HRCP due to proximity (<200m): Day 0 is date of capping at the IP.
- Premises is an HRCP due to being in a duck network: Day 0 is day they last had contact or had some sort of duck implicated movement, whichever is later.

HRCP restrictions are in place for a minimum of 14 days from the above dates during which they must have:

- Baseline DBS
- DBS bi-weekly
- Release testing on or after Day 15

For example, if a premises is an HRCP due to contact and that contact last happened November 8:

- Day 1 is November 9 and Day 14 is November 22 with DBS occurring throughout this timeframe.
- HRCP release testing to occur on or after November 23 then when we get these results we can release them.

Resources & Reference Material

Articles below this point are included for easy reference and are static. All new information is included above this heading.

Take Care of Yourself

All producers/growers and their families are under a tremendous amount of stress right now. If you, or one of your colleagues, friends, or family members are feeling anxious or stressed, don't hesitate to visit the [AgSafe](#) mental health website. They have valuable resources that you may find helpful.

Movement Permits

We ask all those applying for movement permits to please be diligent and timely with your applications. Have a question about what permit you need? Visit the [permit page](#) on the CFIA website or call your commodity board.

Dead Bird Surveillance

CFIA has prioritized farms in the 0-3 km zone for DBS. If you are in a 0-3 km zone, you must participate in DBS using your blue bins.

Farms in the 3-10 km zone ONLY need to provide DBS samples prior to any movements. These samples are required 24 hours before a movement is scheduled to take place. DBS bins will NOT be provided for this type of sampling. CFIA has requested that all mortality be placed in garbage bags and then put the bags in a 5-gallon bucket or other lidded container. CFIA staff know to look for these containers when conducting pre-movement sampling.

Primary Control Zones (PCZs)

Do you want to know how close you are to a Primary Control Zone? Use the CFIA's [PCZ page](#). Remember, if your farm is touched by a control zone, your premise would normally be included. Control zones are established around infected farms to ensure that the poultry within the zone remain healthy and free of HPAI and to control the spread of the disease.

Red Biosecurity Resources

All poultry farms across British Columbia are extremely vulnerable to HPAI currently. The best way to mitigate your risk is to ensure you're always implementing all the red biosecurity protocols. Please refer to the [BC Poultry Biosecurity Program Reference Guide](#).