

New Infected Premises (IPs)

There have been no new detections of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in British Columbia since our last industry update on December 7. 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.

Mental Health Crisis Number Now Live

The federal government has introduced the phone number '9-8-8' to act as a resource for any Canadian experiencing a mental health crisis. Those who call or text the number will be directed to a mental health crisis or suicide prevention service, free-of-charge. Learn more.

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>

Dead Bird Surveillance (DBS) for Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI)

This information has been provided to the EOC by CFIA to share with poultry producers and growers and support any information needs or concerns that industry may have related to DBS.

Refer to the [CFIA website](#) for an overview of surveillance activities for commercial producers in primary control zones.

- Surveillance for HPAI in commercial poultry operations is a key component of disease control activities and is critical to eradication of disease for the national flock and maintaining disease free status.
- When HPAI is detected on a poultry premises, the CFIA places a 3 km infected zone and a 10 km primary control zone around the farm. In the infected zone, all farms are subject to surveillance

activities as part of the outbreak investigation. Premises in the security zone are subject to surveillance activities in order to permit movements of birds within or out of the zone.

Dead bird surveillance (DBS) testing

- Samples consist of oropharyngeal and cloacal swabs taken from recently dead and/or sick birds.
- Polymerase chain reaction (PCR) testing is used for DBS samples. The sensitivity and specificity of this test means that the probability of a false positive result is extremely low.

Advantages of dead bird surveillance (DBS)

- DBS limits the need for live bird testing and CFIA staff entering premises. This helps producers maintain biosecurity in a high-risk environment.
- HPAI behaves different in different bird species and production types. Selecting dead or sick birds increases the likelihood of early detection before mortalities and/or clinical signs are seen in otherwise healthy birds.
- Early detection helps with disease control and allows quick response minimizing or limiting disease spread and welfare concerns in the flock.

Response to a positive DBS sample

- A single positive DBS sample, regardless of the status of the barn or other barns on the premises meets the case definition of an infected premises. All birds on the premises that are considered to have been equally exposed to the disease agent are ordered destroyed.
- Under Canada's stamping out policy, selective culling is the practice of ordering disposal for only barns in which birds test positive or are demonstrating clinical signs. This practice is inconsistent with Canada's stamping out policy. National Industry organizations have expressed their support for the stamping out policy as a means of maintaining international market access. Canada's approach is consistent with WOAHA guidelines for stamping-out.

DBS surveillance does not eliminate the requirement for producers to report any observed disease concerns about their flock to their veterinarian or the CFIA

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 Requirements

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](#).