

Previously Identified Infected Premises Confirmed in Abbotsford, Chilliwack, and Agassiz

On November 7, 2023, the CFIA confirmed the previously reported detections of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in Abbotsford, Chilliwack, and Agassiz, and today, and an additional premise in Chilliwack. Our deepest sympathies go out to the affected farmers, their families, and farm staff.

The new cases are designated as BC-IP-112 (Agassiz, turkeys), BC-IP-113 (Mission, breeders), BC-IP-114 (Rosedale, layers), BC-IP-115 (Chilliwack, ducks), BC-IP-116 (Abbotsford, broilers), BC-IP-117 (Chilliwack, ducks).

We have been notified of sick bird calls in small flocks on Vancouver Island and in the North Okanagan, and a die-off of wild waterfowl in Chilliwack. As we wait for results, producers across the province are reminded that everyone must be extremely diligent and practising the absolute best biosecurity on their farms, no matter where you are or what your commodity. Remember, you have all have access to the [BC Poultry Biosecurity Program Reference Guide](#).

Zones will be reviewed and implemented as required. Please check this site for [information on control zones](#). The CFIA destruction team is mobilizing for depopulation on the new IPs in the coming days. They are resourcing an additional team to support destruction activities this week and, at this time, gas supply is consistent. If we continue to see significant increases in detections, we will be engaging industry and provincial response partners to provide additional support to the response as required.

For those with questions about moving poultry or poultry products, please [visit this site](#).

We understand that this update, along with the significant number of recent cases, place immense concern and stress on all our producers and industry partners. Please check in with each other when it is safe to do so and support one another. If you, or anyone you know, is struggling with the impacts of this event, please reach out and we can connect you with the appropriate resources to help you or, you can get help directly from [AgSafe](#).

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

Progress Updates on Current Infected Premises

Destruction on BC-IP-111 was confirmed to be complete on November 5, 2023, and destruction on BC-IP-110 was completed on November 7, 2023. The BHT process has been completed on BC-IP-106 as of November 6, 2023.

Dead Bird Surveillance Reminder

With the identification of new IPs, and establishment of new control zones, a significant increase to the number of farms required to participate in dead bird surveillance is anticipated. Please be patient with our movement control team and CFIA staff as they will be working hard to get things up and running to ensure the safe and efficient movement of products to and from your farms.

Please note, it will take a few days to get new zones established and DBS setup and running. If you are included in a control zone and require urgent movement permits, reach out to your commodity board, otherwise, please be patient while our teams work through the new zones.

There continues to be some concerns about producer participation in Dead Bird Surveillance (DBS). DBS is done for the safety of all producers/growers so it is essential that all affected producers/growers participate.

CFIA staff responsible for taking samples have noted that the DBS bins at several premises have been turned over (indicating no dead birds inside) for an extended period of time. Please remember that all mortality from your flocks must be placed in the bins.

CFIA is now tracking participation and will notify the BC Poultry Association EOC if DBS bins are unused for an extended period of time. The BCPA will be reaching out to commodity boards to follow-up with non-compliant producers.

Please remember the following key elements of DBS:

1. All bins must be out. They are recorded for activity every time the samplers do their routes.
2. If a sub-premise (barn) is empty, please turn the associated bin over. CFIA samplers do not have access to production cycle information.
3. If a sub-premise (barn) did not have mortality to test, please turn the associated bin over.
4. If your premise (entire site, all barns) are currently empty (no birds on site), please put all the bins out and turn them over.
5. ALL mortality must be placed in the bin for sampling. Frozen birds must be thawed.

We urge all producers/growers to make a concerted effort to ensure we can keep the convenience of DBS over the Live Bird Surveillance option.

Changes to Zone Requirements and Shifting Zone Status

Please note that in the coming days and weeks, zones may be shifting significantly. Producers in a PCZ that are not required to participate in DBS may be required to do so soon as CFIA seeks to meet its surveillance requirements for demonstration of freedom of the disease for the impacted areas. Producers required to participate will be notified by CFIA.

Notification Process for Sick Bird Calls

Producers have enquired about the process following a sick bird call. The current system is managed by CFIA, which, upon notification will have members of their Surveillance and Diagnostics team, or a private veterinarian, come to the farm and take samples of dead birds, similar to dead bird surveillance. These samples are typically flagged as suspect if the call meets certain indicators, and, if flagged high risk, rushed to the Animal Health Center, where they conduct the necessary tests for Influenza and then to determine the H-type.

This process is managed through the CFIA's team on the sick bird line, and notification to the producer will come through that channel. Private veterinary practitioners are only notified by producers themselves, or through Boards or the industry EOC, once a positive premise has been confirmed and we are aware that the producer has been notified. Following notification, the CFIA will assign a case officer, and industry representatives will reach out to the impacted producers to let them know of available resources and the events that will be ensuing.

The next industry update will likely be provided as the event continues to unfold or as new IPs are detected.

Producers are reminded that we are at red biosecurity and maintaining the highest standards of biosecurity is imperative at this time to protect your farm. Please continue to report any unusual or unexpected mortality to the CFIA's sick bird line. The phone number is 403.338.5225.