

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Update

July 12, 2022

Ontario has not experienced any additional highly pathogenic avian influenza outbreaks since May 18. Recovery of all 26 infected premises is well underway as virus elimination and surveillance activities continue.

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) has recently announced the following:

- All of the 3km Infected Zones around infected premises have now been released, allowing for fewer movement restrictions.
- Post Outbreak Surveillance has been completed in eight of the 22 Primary Control Zones (PCZs). There have been eight PCZ Zone Declaration Orders revoked as of July 10. Therefore, there are no longer movement restrictions in the municipalities of Selwyn, Peterborough, Halton, Chatham-Kent, Centre Wellington, Chippewas of Nawash Unceded First Nation, Prince Edward and part of South Glengarry. Controls remain on any infected premises within these revoked PCZs.
- Commercial poultry farms located in these eight revoked PCZs are now considered to be in the Free Zone. These farms have been contacted by FBCC staff and no longer require movement permits, dead bird surveillance, testing, or Flock Health Questionnaire submissions; permits would only be required if shipping or transiting into one of the remaining PCZs.
- All restrictions have been removed on five individual infected premises that have completed required clean up procedures and satisfied re-stocking requirements.
- Updates on HPAI zones can be found on the [CFIA website](#). More information on CFIA permits and conditions needed for movement control can be found [here](#).

GOOD BIOSECURITY PRACTICES REQUIRED

Based on the reduced level of risk and uncertainty and the ongoing CFIA response/recovery measures, FBCC is rescinding the March 26 Heightened Biosecurity Advisory. All poultry farmers, small flock growers and poultry industry personnel throughout the province can now restore [Routine Biosecurity levels \(green cards\)](#). A reminder that if your farm or business is still in an active CFIA Primary Control Zone, you are required to continue to meet all aspects of the CFIA's [current movement control rules](#).



Although the outbreak appears to be waning with the warmer weather and the wild bird migration ending, recent cases in Quebec and the US suggest that the virus is persisting in some local environments. It is important that stringent adherence to good biosecurity practices is maintained. Strict attention should be made to ensure compliance with reviewed biosecurity plans, with regular maintenance checks and repairs being carried out to minimize contact with wild birds.

Reinforcement of good biosecurity behaviours and practices should be a constant reminder to everyone working with birds; any lapse of these measures could still easily result in disease being introduced to a farm.

Special consideration should be made when bringing in equipment and materials which may have become contaminated following environmental exposure.

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.

HPAI UPDATE SERIES – FINAL NOON CALL THURSDAY, JULY 14

The final call in the HPAI Update Series, will be held Thursday, July 14. Farmers and industry personnel with questions after that date can contact their Board office or check the [FBCC website](#).

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.

