

Tips and Recommendations for Mitigating the Spread of COVID-19

Staffing Practices

- If any office staff are able to work from home, that is the ideal situation.
- Do not allow visitors into your facilities.
- Provide information and education to employees regarding hand washing and good hygiene.
- There should be detailed cleaning and disinfection procedures for inside vehicles, equipment and office areas such as lunch rooms, offices, bathrooms, etc.
- Staff should be advised to stay home if ill, self-quarantine if they have travelled outside the country and to report this status to their employer.
- Companies should develop human resources policies regarding requiring employees to stay at home if ill or how to handle a potential positive virus case (send person home, clean and disinfect area where employee worked, explain to other employees what has been done regarding cleaning and disinfection). Entire crews may have to be quarantined.
- Email documents rather than handing in hard copies or forego requiring signatures if possible.

Travel to Work Site

- Trucks and crew vans should not make any stops between the farm and home base unless necessary for fuel or poultry welfare (and food if essential).
- Employees should also practice social distancing (six feet, two metres) from others when working or taking breaks. It is understood that some crews live, travel and work together so this is not practical. However, they should be conscious of practicing social distancing with those outside their group, e.g. transport drivers, farmers, etc.
- Some companies are housing crews separately, i.e. only one crew per house.
- For crews that travel together to the work site, some companies are sending more vehicles to farms so there are fewer workers per vehicle, keeping it to two people per row of seats, and/or workers wearing masks and gloves in the van.
- The recommendation from Public Health Canada if an employer is unable to modify the workplace (which would include vehicles) to maintain spatial separation between employees to under two metres, is that hand hygiene should be performed more frequently. Alcohol-based hand rub (60% alcohol or greater) or hand washing with soap and disposable towels should be made readily available. They also recommend increasing your cleaning procedures and protocols with special attention to high-touch surfaces and objects, e.g. door handles.

On-Farm

- All farmers have been asked to notify their processor, transporter, catching company and other service suppliers if they, an employee or a member of their family has travelled outside Canada within the previous 14 days, is ill with flu-like symptoms or has been in close contact with anyone who has tested positive for COVID-19.
- If any of these conditions are present, it is stressed that farmers and any other affected individual stay away from drivers and crews. They must maintain self-isolation and not be present at loading. If possible, an alternate should be present. In all cases, proper social distancing protocols must be respected by ensuring a distance of a minimum of two metres between themselves and other individuals.
- Farmers have also been requested to thoroughly wipe down any surfaces at entry points of the barn etc. with disinfectant. The provision of soap and water for handwashing by catching crews is to be provided.