



March 20, 2020

Attention all BC Poultry Producers: COVID-19 Update

British Columbians have many questions regarding the ongoing COVID-19 situation and we are sure that you do too. As poultry farmers, we know you are committed to providing BC consumers with quality chicken, turkey and eggs they can trust. That commitment is one that you make every day as you continue to raise your flocks to the highest standards of food safety, animal care and sustainability.

It is important that all producers have the correct information and guidelines to ensure that your farms are appropriately operated. To help guide you we have compiled the following list:

If you, one of your family members or employees has Contracted COVID-19:

You must self-isolate and stay away from your place of work. **As your workplace includes your barns you must have contingency plans in place for replacement personnel to care for your birds.**

You Have Returned From Travel Outside of Canada

You must self-isolate for a period of 14 days before returning to work or entering your barns. If during the 14 day period you show no signs of having contracted COVID-19 then you are able to resume your normal daily routine.

A Family Member or Roommate Has Returned From Travel Outside of Canada:

It is expected that the individual in question will self-isolate for a 14 day period as required by Health Canada. You may continue to follow your daily work routine if you can meet the following conditions with respect to the traveller;

- The traveller is able to self-isolate within your household. A separate bedroom for them to stay on their own.
- The traveller has their own bathroom to use separate from the remainder of the household or a thorough cleaning of the bathroom is done after each use by the Traveller.
- The Traveller does not prepare meals for the remainder of the household and eats separately from everyone else.
- All of the above conditions would need to be met for the full 14 day self-isolation period.

If you are not able to meet the above conditions then you as well would be required to be self-isolated for the 14 day period.

A Family Member or Roommate is Feeling Sick:

The expectations would be the same to the conditions related to having a family member or roommate returning from travel outside of Canada.

If you are able to self-isolate that individual then you may continue to perform your farm duties. If not then you must also stay away from your barns and birds while they are sick.

As you are aware, the situation with the COVID-19 and its impact is changing daily and we will continue to work to keep you informed. Our concern, as always, is for the Health and Safety of our growers, their families and staff and the integrity of our Food Safety, Animal Care and Bio-Security programs.

Strict adherence to these programs and the direction of Health Canada and the BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC) will ensure that the Canadian poultry Industry is able to maintain the trust of the Canadian public, the consumers of our products.

In an effort to lessen contact between growers and catching crew personnel, **the boards and commission are temporarily suspending the sections of Load out Reports which require signatures of growers until further notice.** The Boards and Commission expect that general oversight of the catching process by the grower will continue.

The four boards take the matter of self-isolation very seriously. We all must. It is not just about compliance with orders of the boards, it is a matter of protecting public health. The boards expect that all producers and growers will ensure that they do not place themselves or any other person at risk through any actions contrary to the best interests of our industries or the public.

Thank you for your cooperation and attention to this matter of critical importance.

For more information visit:

<http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19> or contact the dedicated 1-888-COVID-19 or 1-888-268-4319 phone line with any questions about the virus or recommended action.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health.html>



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Attachment: Letter from BC Minister of Agriculture, Lana Popham dated March 18, 2020.
c.c. BCFIRB