

Appendix 6

Self-Quarantine Procedures

Background

Upon the *suspicion* of an infectious disease in a poultry flock, these are a set of guidelines that are to be enacted by the producer. The intention of this protocol is to limit the spread of disease between barns and, most importantly, the spread of disease off the farm to other poultry operations.

Situation:

There has been an **unexplained**:

- increase in mortality
- change in feed/water consumption
- decrease in egg production/shell quality, etc.
- onset of clinical signs of disease

SIGNS THAT CANNOT BE IGNORED

- ↑ Mortality >3% in 1 week
- ↑ Mortality >0.5% in 24 hours
- ↓ Production >5% in 1 week
- ↓ Feed or Water Consumption >20% in 1 week

Action Plan

1. Get An Answer:

- a. Start your own on-farm investigation. Gather together all relevant documents including health records of all flocks currently on the farm.
- b. Call your poultry veterinarian with a complete description of the problem including time of onset, duration, whether things are getting worse or resolving over time. Offer your suspicions as to what you think the problem might be.
- c. Review and be able to provide copies of production and mortality records.
- d. Provide representative birds and/or samples for diagnostic investigation:
 - call in your veterinarian to do on-farm necropsy and sampling techniques
 - take birds and/or samples to a local poultry veterinarian
 - take birds and/or samples to the Vet Lab

2. While You Wait:

- a. Follow the advice of the poultry veterinarian, which may involve interim treatment of the flock based upon the disease suspected.
- b. Review and list the on-farm traffic, visitors and bird movements in the previous 10 days. Refer to visitor log.
- c. Immediately adopt enhanced biosecurity protocols for unaffected barns. Service unaffected barns first or dedicate a specific employee to the affected barn(s).
- d. Immediately restrict on and off-farm access by locking gates and requiring phone-ahead pre-arrangements for deliveries/pick-ups. *Suspend all unnecessary traffic.*
- e. Inform all family members and employees of the situation. Request confidentiality until

- diagnosis is confirmed.
- f. Follow strict personal biosecurity procedures for leaving the farm (e.g. non-farm clothing, footwear and vehicle), especially if meeting with other poultry industry members, even socially.
 - g. Postpone scheduled vaccinations until a diagnosis is confirmed.
 - h. Postpone movements of any birds on or off the farm.
 - i. Dispose of dead/culled birds in an approved method: on-farm, composting or incineration. Treat as infectious material.
 - j. If there is **STRONG SUSPICION** of a highly infectious disease such as ILT, pox, IBV or AI, based on the visible lesions found at necropsy but before laboratory confirmation, call the feed company/egg truck to request 'end-of-day' service.

Important Note: *There are only 4 federal (pathogenic NDV & AI and Salmonella pullorum & gallinarum) and only 2 provincial (ILT and MG in turkeys) reportable diseases. All other diseases are 'unregulated' and are a private issue between you and your veterinarian. Your confidentiality will be respected but your co-operation in informing your industry service representatives of a potential infectious disease problem is encouraged and appreciated. It is the right thing to do. The presence of a serious disease on your farm does not mean you are a poor manager.*

3. When a Diagnosis is Confirmed:

- a. If the diagnosis confirms a 'reportable' disease, either the CFIA (federal disease) or your producer association (provincial disease) will have been informed at the same time you were. Follow this up. Prepare records and notes for review.
- b. In the case of a 'reportable' disease, follow the directions and recommendations of the regulatory agency but don't hesitate to ask questions.
- c. In the event of notifiable Avian Influenza, go to enhanced biosecurity red protocols (Appendix 7).
- d. Modify or initiate treatment of flock as directed by your poultry veterinarian.
- e. Enhanced on-farm biosecurity procedures should be followed for at least 10-14 days following the end of treatment or resolution of clinical signs.
- f. If previously informed, update your service industry reps and producer groups of the diagnosis and the measures that have been taken for containment.
- g. If practical, inform neighboring poultry operations.
- h. If appropriate, provisions can be made for birds to be moved directly to slaughter, in which case the processor should be informed.
- i. Optional but recommended: Enhanced biosecurity signs posted at gates indicating that an infectious disease has been diagnosed and access is restricted.

4. Getting Back to Normal:

- a. Continue to monitor for disease reoccurrence in the same or subsequent flocks; watch for clinical signs, submit follow-up samples.
- b. Record the event in the production records with as much detail as possible.
- c. Return to regular biosecurity measures.
- d. The regular on-farm cleaning and disinfection procedures for the affected barns should be enhanced. Extend clean 'down-time' as long as possible.

Self-Quarantine Checklist

An addendum to the Self-Quarantine Procedures

When you suspect an infectious disease on your farm:

➔ **Immediately call your veterinarian.** Date/time called _____

Notes:

➔ **Provide diagnostic specimens.**
Reference: **Diagnostic Laboratory Submission Procedures (Appendix 8)**

Date/time submitted _____

Reference/Submission# _____

Estimated time/date of prelim results _____

Disease Suspected _____

Notes:

➔ **Review and implement the Self-Quarantine Procedures (SOP Appendix 5)**

- ➔ **Call all visitors and services expected to visit your farm in the next 5 days** and either postpone or arrange end-of-day delivery with enhanced vehicle disinfection. Reference: **Emergency Contact List** (See next page)

Who Called/Time Contacted:

- ➔ **Gather together all relevant production data and flock records for review.**
- ➔ **If requested, provide copies of the last 10 days of entries into the Visitor Log (Appendix 1)**