

Disease Emergency Response Plan Sample

The following provides a sample disease/emergency response plan to be put in place in case a contagious disease is suspected on this farm, or after confirmation of a disease has been received from a veterinarian on this farm or within the vicinity of this farm. These are not everyday actions; they are for heightened level biosecurity status or when an unplanned or unknown emergency situation may require.

Thanks to the Turkey Farmers of Canada for allowing the use and modification of their document.

- ✓ Contact the Farm Manager, if applicable, to inform him or her of the situation.
- ✓ Contact a veterinarian in cases where a disease is suspected on this farm. Keep in communication with your vet if a sample is submitted to the Provincial Vet Lab to ensure you receive the most current results.
- ✓ Ensure all staff are accounted for and informed of the situation and potential health risks.
- ✓ Keep the barns locked and use the Visitor Log to record all movement on and off the farm, not just visitors to the barn(s).
- ✓ Block the laneway to the Controlled Access Zone (CAZ) (using a gate, rope/chain, wagon, etc.) to prevent unwanted or unnecessary traffic or access. Any vehicle moving on or off a farm should be considered high risk during an emergency.
- ✓ Inform your provincial board office.
- ✓ Reduce movement on and off the farm (especially in the CAZ and Reduced Access Zone [RAZ]) to a minimum, including family members. Whenever possible, conduct activities through non-contact methods, such as telephone, web-based communication, fax or e-mail.
- ✓ Eliminate or delay all activities that if undertaken, could act as a vector to spread disease. Avoid direct contact with off-farm poultry operations or poultry personnel. No other farms should be visited and avoid visiting common gathering places, such as local coffee shops or meetings.
- ✓ Notify all your unscheduled pick-ups or deliveries such as sawdust, egg pick-up, porta-potty pick-up, feed trucks, etc. Refer to your emergency contact list and exercise extreme caution when allowing necessary visits from input suppliers or service providers. Delay or reduce all service and other visits to the farm. Ask to be the last farm visited in the day.
- ✓ Inform any allied trades, service personnel or other producers that may have visited your farm in the past week about the potential contagious disease situation.

- ✓ People entering the CAZ must wear disposable plastic boot covers and disposable coveralls while on-farm. Used disposable supplies must remain on the farm. Hand disinfecting or vigorous washing with warm water and soap prior to entering and leaving is recommended.
- ✓ Vehicles entering and leaving the CAZ are clean and, if possible, should be run through a truck wash prior to visiting the farm. Disinfectant should be applied to tires, wheel wells and undercarriage (upon entry and exit). The interior truck cab including areas such as the floor, pedals, steering wheel, and door handles should also be disinfected.
- ✓ Family members attending activities away from the farm, such as work or school, should limit their access to the CAZ. They should avoid contact with other feathered species (including pets). Strict biosecurity protocols must be followed to minimize risks.
- ✓ Limit flock management to specific individuals. Clean, laundered clothing and dedicated footwear should be utilized for each barn. Ensure that no equipment enters or leaves the area unless thoroughly cleaned and disinfected. Hand disinfecting or vigorous washing with warm water and soap is also recommended prior to leaving the barn.
- ✓ Barn entrances should be cleaned and sanitized daily.
- ✓ Dead bird disposal should be confined on-farm until the disease situation has passed. Practice proper composting or freezing and ensure no wild or domestic animals have access to the dead birds.
- ✓ Garbage disposal should be well thought out, so that care and control of material generated on the farm is maintained until the situation is clear.
- ✓ If the disease is in your vicinity, review your flock health records for feed/water consumption and for signs of abnormalities. Watch your flock and report any unusual illness or mortality to your veterinarian, your provincial board office and industry personnel as appropriate.
- ✓ Heighten your biosecurity protocols as recommended by your board.
- ✓ A good reference manual for non-disease emergencies is the *Emergency Management Guide for BC Poultry Producers*. Google the title to find it on the web.
- ✓ Indicate any other measures that would be taken on this farm: