

High Mortality Incident in the Blenheim Area

April 5, 2022

This is an important communication regarding biosecurity provisions on your farm.

The Feather Board Command Centre (FBCC) was made aware of a high mortality incident in a poultry flock in the Blenheim area. The 10km FBCC buffered biosecurity advisory area can be found [HERE](#). FBCC is strongly suggesting that you exercise extreme caution and invoke heightened biosecurity measures on your farm.

The following outlines biosecurity protocols that MUST be implemented (basic and heightened measures) on-farm:

- Keep poultry away from areas frequented by wild birds.
- Maintain strict control over access to poultry houses and your premises.
- Make sure equipment is cleaned and disinfected before taking it into poultry houses.
- Do not keep bird feeders or create duck ponds close to poultry barns.
- Maintain the highest sanitation standards.
- Change footwear when entering the Restricted Area and prevent wearing contaminated clothing and equipment in production areas.
- Control access to your farm site by communicating the situation to all essential visitors, including service providers, input suppliers and feed providers.
- Keep mortalities in secure, covered containers until they are moved to the disposal area or transported off-farm.
- Place waste entering the public collection system in a sealed, waterproof bag with the exterior disinfected.
- Place a hose and spray nozzle at entry point to Controlled Access Zone (CAZ); wash and disinfect vehicles at entry and at exit, paying special attention to wheels and wheel wells.
- If possible, keep all waste on-farm until the situation is resolved.
- **IMPORTANT:** Limit access to your farm to ESSENTIAL visitors only. Please note that each individual Feather Board (CFO, EFO, OBHECC, TFO) will be reaching out to their members regarding on-farm audits and inspections. Wherever possible, on-farm audits and inspections will be limited to essential visits only.

All service providers are asked to minimize and sequence all travel in the area. For essential visits to premises where poultry is grown, please ensure you are following heightened biosecurity measures.

While there are no other specific details that can be shared at this time, FBCC will contact you via e-mail and as soon as possible.

If your birds show any signs of illness, call your veterinarian immediately. It is also recommended that you contact the 24-hour Feather Board Command Centre (FBCC) support line, 1-877-SOS-BYRD.

Visit the Feather Board Command Centre's website at www.fbcc.ca for more information.

