

## **INFECTIOUS LARYNGOTRACHEITIS (ILT) BIOSECURITY ADVISORY** **Commercial Broiler Chicken Flock** **Niagara Region**

**December 14, 2021**

The Feather Board Command Centre (FBCC) is issuing an ILT Disease Biosecurity Advisory to all poultry farmers and small flock growers within a [defined 10 km area west of Smithville in northwest Niagara Region](#). Last evening, a commercial broiler chicken farmer about 10 km west of Smithville notified the Chicken Farmers of Ontario (CFO) that he was facing increasing mortality in his flock. He also indicated all the birds were scheduled for slaughter this week. The farmer has alerted his service providers and immediate neighbours. FBCC is working with CFO staff and the attending veterinarian to advise on bio-containment efforts, clean up and recovery. Laboratory tests this evening were PCR positive for ILT. There was an ILT outbreak on several farms in Niagara west in December 2020 – January 2021.

ILT is a serious contagious disease caused by a respiratory virus primarily in unvaccinated laying hens and broiler chickens. Signs to look out for include increased mortality, noisy breathing, head-shaking, off feed, decreased egg production, inactivity, ruffled feathers and conjunctivitis. Should you suspect any signs of health concerns in your flock, please contact your veterinarian as well as your Board.

The high density of poultry farms and small flock growers in this area creates the potential for spread to other farms, in particular unvaccinated broiler flocks. As your premises has been identified as being located within the biosecurity advisory area, we recommend that you remain vigilant in following the [enhanced biosecurity procedures](#) that are in effect, including controlling the movement of birds, people and equipment onto and off of your farm in the interest of flock health.

Please advise any visitors to your premises of your biosecurity protocols because of this situation and keep a logbook of movement in relation to your farm. Minimize visits to other poultry production sites, avoid exchanging equipment with other poultry production sites or ensure that it is washed and disinfected. Ensure all personnel in contact with birds wear clean boots and protective clothing, head coverings and gloves/handwashing. Ensure adequate control of vermin and wild birds.

**Enhance your biosecurity by participating in the joint FBCC - Farm Health Guardian pilot project. You can [download the Farm Health Guardian app](#) to get rapid direct communications from FBCC.**

Further biosecurity information for small flock growers is available from [CFIA website](#)  
Any updates will be posted on [www.fbcc.ca](http://www.fbcc.ca)

