

INFECTIOUS LARYNGOTRACHEITIS (ILT) BIOSECURITY ADVISORY (Update #3 – Niagara Region)

December 24, 2020

On behalf of the four feather boards, the Feather Board Command Centre (FBCC) is issuing another update to the [Dec. 1 ILT Disease Biosecurity Advisory](#) to all poultry farmers and small flock growers within an Area near Smithville in Niagara Region.

The FBCC continues to coordinate response efforts to the current ILT outbreak in northwest Niagara region. All poultry farms within the [Biosecurity Advisory Area](#) are being monitored for changes in feed/water consumption, production and mortalities. Farmers and industry service providers are strongly encouraged to maintain [enhanced biosecurity procedures](#) to prevent further infections.

In summary, there have been 3 ILT infected broiler chicken flocks identified on Dec 1, Dec. 11 and Dec. 16, all within a 1 km area west of Smithville. The owners of all 3 infected premises in this cluster experienced increased mortality just before shipping. There are no birds from the infected flocks remaining on these 3 farms. All farmers continue to self-quarantine and are working closely with their veterinarians to complete appropriate in barn heating of litter, cleaning, disinfection and fallow procedures. The next 2 crops of chicks are being vaccinated to help eradicate and prevent spread of this disease. Service providers continue to apply stringent biosecurity measures.

Recently, a 30-week-old egg layer flock within 3 km of the previous cases experienced a moderate increase in mortality. Biocontainment measures were instituted, and service providers notified. This morning (Dec. 24) the Guelph Animal Health Lab confirmed a positive PCR test for ILT., the 4th case. There are no known links with previous cases other than proximity.

Experience tells us there may still be active virus in the area. This highly contagious virus can survive in litter and on equipment and can be spread through dust particles in the air. The incubation period can be up to two weeks before clinical signs appear. Please exercise caution. All poultry farmers and growers should notify their veterinarian and their respective Board immediately if their flocks experience increase mortality or abnormal clinical signs **To protect your incoming broiler chicks, we recommend that you consult with your veterinarian to ensure appropriate preventive measures are in place.**

Fortunately, this virus is not transmissible to humans or to other mammals and the chicken is safe to eat. Consumers can be assured that Ontario poultry farmers follow world-leading bio-security protocols.

Further biosecurity information for small flock growers can be accessed [here](#).

All previous updates and resource material are available at www.fbcc.ca.

