

Paramyxovirus (PPMV-1) BIOSECURITY ADVISORY

Tottenham, Simcoe County

February 3, 2022

The Feather Board Command Centre (FBCC) has been advised by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) that a small backyard pigeon flock in Tottenham, southern Simcoe County, has tested positive for Newcastle Disease (Pigeon Paramyxovirus-1) on PCR testing. Further confirmatory testing will determine pathogenicity.

Since the end of October there have been 2 outbreaks of this virus in small racing pigeon flocks in Mississauga and Whitby. In response, OMAFRA released a [Veterinary Advisory on Newcastle Disease](#). CFIA protocols required quarantine and movement controls on each of the premises until 60 days after the last clinical signs. Upon completion of an approved cleaning and disinfection process, the quarantines are lifted.

Newcastle disease is a highly contagious disease in many species of domestic poultry, exotic and wild birds. Clinical signs include respiratory distress, coughing and sneezing, diarrhea and neurological signs including tremors and paralysis. Newcastle disease can resemble highly pathogenic avian influenza, which is also a reportable disease.

Birds become infected when they have direct contact with diseased or carrier birds or contaminated equipment or people. Infected birds may shed the virus in their feces, contaminating the environment. Newcastle disease can be brought into a barn by breaches in biosecurity. Birds with outdoor access have higher risk of contracting the disease and they should not share areas with wild birds such as feral pigeons. Producers are also advised to ensure that areas with outdoor access do not attract wild birds, as ponds or open feeders may become contaminated with wild bird droppings.

Implementing and adhering to biosecurity best management practices is important to prevent the introduction and spread of the disease.

Should you suspect any signs of health concerns in your flock, please contact your veterinarian as well as your Board. For after hours, call 1-877-SOS-BYRD.

Please consider [registering](#) for access to the FBCC website for detailed information on local and global federally reportable and provincially notifiable poultry diseases. If you wish to subscribe to FBCC Disease Alerts, please [sign up](#).

