

INFECTIOUS LARYNGOTRACHEITIS (ILT) BIOSECURITY ADVISORY Niagara Region

December 1, 2020

On behalf of the four feather boards, 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 around Smithville in northwest Niagara Region. [\(see map attached\)](#)

This morning, a commercial broiler chicken farmer in Smithville area notified the Chicken Farmers of Ontario (CFO) that ILT has been diagnosed in his flock. He also indicated all the birds in the affected barn have been sent to slaughter. This is not a food safety issue. Other birds on premises are going to slaughter this week. FBCC is working with CFO staff in assisting the farmer with bio-containment efforts, clean up and recovery. This is only the third case of ILT in a commercial Ontario broiler chicken flock since early 2018, however infections in small flocks occur almost monthly.

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 broiler chicken density in this area creates the potential for spread to other unvaccinated birds. 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.

Further biosecurity information for small flock growers is available at <http://www.inspection.gc.ca/animals/terrestrial-animals/diseases/bird-health-basics/eng/1323643634523/1323644740109>.

Any updates will be posted on www.fbcc.ca



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