

# **Producer Self-Quarantine Protocol**

**BACKGROUND:** Upon the *suspicion* of an infectious disease in a poultry flock, these are a set of guidelines that are to be enacted by the producer. The intention of this protocol is to limit the spread of disease between barns and, most importantly, the spread of disease off the farm onto other poultry operations.

**SITUATION:** There has been an **unexplained:**

increase in mortality,  
change in production parameters such as feed/water consumption  
or egg production/shell quality etc.  
onset of clinical signs of disease

## **ACTION PLAN**

### 1) **GET AN ANSWER:**

- a) Start your own on-farm investigation. Gather together all relevant documents including health records of all flocks currently on the farm.
- b) Call your poultry health advisor with a complete description of the problem including time of onset, duration, whether things are getting worse or resolving over time. Offer your suspicions as to what you think the problem might be.
- c) Review and be able to provide copies of production and mortality records.
- d) Provide representative birds and/or samples for diagnostic investigation:
  - i) call in your veterinarian to do on-farm necropsy and sampling techniques
  - ii) take birds and/or samples to a local poultry veterinarian
  - iii) take birds and/or samples to the Vet Lab

### 2) **WHILE YOU WAIT:**

- a) Follow the advice of the poultry health advisor which may involve interim treatment of the flock based upon the disease suspected.
- b) Review and list the on-farm traffic, visitors and bird movements in the previous 10 days. Refer to visitor log.
- c) Immediately adopt enhanced biosecurity protocols for unaffected barns. Service unaffected barns first or dedicate a specific employee to the affected barn(s).
- d) Immediately restrict on and off-farm access by locking gates and requiring phone-ahead pre-arrangements for deliveries/pick-ups. *Suspend all unnecessary traffic.*
- e) Inform all family members and employees of the situation. Request confidentiality until diagnosis is confirmed.

- f) Follow strict personal biosecurity procedures for leaving the farm (e.g. non-farm clothing, footwear and vehicle), especially if meeting with other poultry industry members, even socially.
- g) Postpone scheduled vaccinations until a diagnosis is confirmed.
- h) Postpone movements of any birds on or off the farm.
- i) Dispose of dead/culled birds in an approved method: on-farm is preferable, composting or incineration is recommended. Treat as infectious material.
- j) If there is **STRONG SUSPICION** of a highly infectious disease such as ILT, pox, IBV or AI, based on the visible lesions found at necropsy but before laboratory confirmation, call the feed company/egg truck to request “end-of-day” service.

*Important Note: There are only 4 federally reportable poultry diseases in Canada (pathogenic NDV & HPAI and Salmonella pullorum & gallinarum). All other diseases are “unregulated” and are a private issue between you and your veterinarian. Your confidentiality will be respected but your co-operation in informing your industry service representatives of a potential infectious disease problem is encouraged and appreciated. It is the right thing to do.*

### 3) **WHEN A DIAGNOSIS IS CONFIRMED:**

- a) If the diagnosis confirms a “reportable” disease, either the CFIA (federal disease) or your producer association (provincial disease) will have been informed at the same time you were. Follow this up. Prepare records and notes for review.
- b) In the case of a “reportable” disease, follow the directions and recommendations of the regulatory agency but don’t hesitate to ask questions.
- c) Modify or initiate treatment of flock as directed by your poultry veterinarian.
- d) Enhanced on-farm biosecurity procedures should be followed for at least 10-14 days following the end of treatment or resolution of clinical signs.
- e) If previously informed, update your service industry reps and producer groups of the diagnosis and the measures that have been taken for containment.
- f) If practical, inform neighboring poultry operations.
- g) If appropriate, provisions can be made for birds moving directly to slaughter, in which case the processor should be informed.
- h) Optional but recommended: Enhanced biosecurity signs posted at gates indicating that an infectious disease has been diagnosed and access is restricted.

### 4) **GETTING BACK TO NORMAL:**

- a) Continue to monitor for disease reoccurrence in the same or subsequent flocks; watch for clinical signs, submit follow-up samples.
- b) Record the event in the production records with as much detail as possible.
- c) Return to regular biosecurity measures.
- d) The regular on-farm cleaning & disinfection procedures for the affected barns should be enhanced. Extend clean “down-time” as long as possible.