

NATIONAL COVID-19 ON-FARM PROTOCOL

Developed Collaboratively with Provincial Milk Boards and DFC

PREVENT: Follow the Public Health Agency of Canada's guidance for how to stay healthy and prevent the spread of COVID-19 (e.g. frequent hand-washing, social distancing, proper hygiene, cleaning and disinfecting high-touch surfaces).

Implement heightened biosecurity protocols, as per the tips below, on the farm to prevent the introduction of the disease.

Biosecurity Tips:

-Do not be in the milk house during milk pick-up.

- Only allow essential service providers on your farm (e.g. vets, milk truck drivers, feed delivery, etc.).
- Do not shake hands, stay at a distance of 2 metres when you speak to them, or opt to communicate by phone before, during or after a visit.
- Wash your hands frequently and reinforce general hygiene practices with your staff and workers.
- Post biosecurity signs at every entrance to your farm and barn instructing your suppliers to call you before entering the barn or moving around the property.
- Ensure the milk house is disinfected shortly before the expected arrival of the milk truck driver, ideally 30 minutes beforehand.
- In the barn and milk house, clean in particular these surfaces: door handles, taps, hoses, ladder, bulk tank openings and valves, milking equipment, etc.
- Ensure you clean milk house surfaces before and after visits of milk truck drivers, veterinarians, and any other service providers.
- Milk truck drivers may also be instructed to follow heightened biosecurity protocols including wearing disposable gloves, etc. to ensure the safety of the milk supply chain. Supply garbage container for disposables to be left on farm
- You can support milk truck drivers by having cleaning materials ready for their use in and outside the milk house (e.g. a hand washing station with soap or hand sanitizer).

General Tips:

- Practice recommended good hygiene (hand washing, sneezing in elbow, etc.)
- Disinfect surfaces more regularly, especially the high-touch surfaces.
- Clean high-touch surfaces with recommended products.
- Clean often any bathrooms, lunchrooms, offices or other places you share with staff. Ensure there is soap or sanitizer is available 24-hours a day!

PLAN:

-Develop a contingency plan: identify and train alternative sources of help in the event that you or a farm worker become sick.

-Tell your employees they should not come to work if they have the symptoms of COVID. Review your sick days policy if necessary. Note that you may need to review and adjust employee sick days and provide record of employment for them to access government assistance, such as EI, as it relates to COVID-19 sickness.

COVID-19 ON-FARM PROTOCOL – 3 Levels

-DFNS has adopted this tiered response protocol for farms, as designed nationally by the milk marketing boards and DFC. Producers must read and follow this protocol based on the situation level on their farm. In all cases, please follow the Public Health Agency of Canada's guidance which indicates that anyone exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 should go home, be in isolation as required, and call the local public health authority. We recommend the farmer also contact and inform DFNS of the situation.

These levels set out what needs to be done on farms where the producer, a worker or family member has potentially been exposed to Covid-19.

➤ **Level 1 Response:** Outside Labor Available

Implement your contingency plan to activate alternative sources of help to keep your cattle cared for and milked.

Review, and improve if necessary, your cleaning and sanitation efforts. Look at the tips from Public Health Canada.

Pay particular attention to all surfaces that milk truck driver or other supplier may come in contact with.

➤ **Level 2 Response:** No Outside Labor Available

In the event that all your alternative sources of help are no longer available, or inadequate to keep the farm running, contact DFNS. DFNS may be able to help with urgent needs and to identify new sources of farm workers for you and help you determine next steps.

Farm workers, who are the only option to continue milking your animals, wear a face mask and gloves at all times, and follow rigorous glove sanitation procedures.

Someone independent of the milking process, and not infected, must disinfect the equipment and milk house after milking – using a mask and gloves.

Any exposed person must not enter the milk house following disinfection and prior to milk-pickup.

➤ **Level 3 Response:** No Outside Labor available and someone Covid positive on farm

If you or your farm workers are the only option to continue milking your animals and to disinfect the milk house: wear a face mask and gloves at all times and follow rigorous glove sanitation procedures.

Disinfect the equipment and milk house before and after milking – using a mask and gloves.

Any isolated person must not enter the milk house following disinfection and prior to milk-pickup. Having already contacted DFNS, they will advise you on any additional next steps and managing your milk production

If absolutely no labor available, consider applying to DFNS for catastrophe relief.