

Suggestions to keep your farm employees healthy and safe during the COVID-19 pandemic

Outlined below are best practices to mitigate the transmission of COVID-19 among farm personnel, as well as suggestions to manage suspected or confirmed cases of COVID-19 in your workforce. Farmers are encouraged to consult the [guidelines for the Canadian poultry and egg industry in response to COVID-19](#) and the material issued by public health authorities.

Uphold stringent personnel and facility hygiene practices

- Frequently wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds
- Avoid touching face and high-contact surfaces where possible
- Practice physical distancing of 2 metres between individuals
- Clean high-contact surfaces minimally once per day with a suitable cleaner and disinfectant
- Minimize human-to-human contact as much as possible, such as staggering shifts and breaks
- Monitor symptoms, anyone exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 should not be at the farm
- Be prepared with a plan in the event that an individual becomes ill

Steps to take if a case of COVID-19 is suspected at your farm

- Farm personnel or employees with symptoms of COVID-19 or a suspected case should stay home
- If an employee has symptoms of COVID-19 while at the farm, send them home immediately or to a quarantined area if immediate medical attention is needed
- The employee should not be permitted to come to the farm and should isolate for 14 days and follow public health protocols
- Encourage the employee to contact public health authorities and get tested
- Clean and disinfect all common-contact areas and equipment used by the employee
- Communicate the situation and actions taken to other employees

Steps to take if an employee tests positive for COVID-19 (a confirmed case)

- Anyone exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 should not be permitted to come on-farm
- If an employee is diagnosed with COVID-19 and is on-farm, send them home immediately or to a quarantined area if immediate medical attention is needed
- Contact local health authorities, egg board and grader, if not already engaged
- Inform employees, keeping the identity of the affected individual confidential. Employees who have been in close proximity to the affected individual should self-isolate for 14 days
- Undertake deep cleaning and sanitation measures of all affected area and equipment
- Employees who have confirmed positive should not be permitted to return to work until they are free from COVID-19, following public health protocols

Additional resources

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada: www.agr.gc.ca

Canadian Food Inspection Agency: www.inspection.gc.ca

Public Health Agency of Canada: www.phac-aspc.gc.ca

Egg Farmers of Canada: www.eggfarmers.ca

Consult your provincial or territorial government's website regularly for additional regional guidance.