



REMINDER: Biosecurity measures to reduce risks of introducing HPAI on dairy farms (5th edition)

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No cases of HPAI have been detected on Canadian dairy farms to date. However, the virus has been detected in over 130 dairy farms in 12 states including Idaho, Michigan, Minnesota and Ohio – states that share the Canadian border. Given its ongoing spread in the U.S., prevention is crucial. When Canadian farms heighten their biosecurity measures, they help prevent the introduction of the virus on their farms and minimize various transmission risks.

According to American epidemiological investigations published in mid-June, the virus appears to be spreading to dairy farms in two main ways. The first is through the introduction of an infected cow into a herd. The second involves transmission of the virus via clothing, footwear or vehicles used by people who visit or work on multiple farms.

Prevent HPAI in your dairy herd:

- *Avoid cattle movement into your herd*
- *If you must purchase cattle, test for HPAI before they enter your herd*
- *Test for HPAI before and after moving a cow from one location to the other*
- *Restrict visitors from entering the farm.*

If you see clinical signs that look like HPAI in your herd:

- *Contact your veterinarian*
- *Isolate affected animals*

Information from the CFIA

Continue to visit the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) [webpage](#) to keep up with the latest information about this disease. The webpage also provides [useful advice](#) on risk-mitigating initiatives, biosecurity and personal protection for farmers and veterinarians.

The CFIA is encouraging the voluntary testing of milk samples from healthy cows to help you make safer decisions about moving cattle on and off farm or bringing an animal back to the farm from events. Your sample must be submitted by your herd veterinarian and CFIA covers the cost of the laboratory test.

Milk Safety and Quality

Pasteurization kills harmful bacteria and viruses while retaining milk's nutritional properties and ensures that the milk we drink is safe.

Provincial responsibilities

Provincial departments of agriculture and chief veterinarians are responsible for deploying the response and coordination of measures to be taken in case of detection of the disease on a dairy farm in their province. Consequently, Dairy Farmers of Canada (DFC) encourages dairy farmers to also connect with their provincial association for additional details on the provincial response protocols should a farm be affected in your province.

Prevention

DFC advises dairy farmers to heighten biosecurity measures in dairy farms to prevent possible risks associated with this new disease. These recommendations are based on [proAction](#)® biosecurity measures, specific recommendations to [Prevent an Outbreak \(Being Vigilant about Animal Introductions\)](#), and guidance from CFIA.

Biosecurity Recommendations:

To limit the risk of transmission from cow to cow

- Avoid animal movements as much as possible. It is a good time to keep a closed herd.
- If introducing new animals or re-introducing animals back to the herd after co-mingling offsite:
 - Source animals from herds with a known health status.
 - Ask questions; avoid sourcing animals from areas where HPAI is present in dairy herds.
 - Test cows before bringing them into your herd (including cows returning to your herd).
 - When moving cattle, start with a cleaned and disinfected livestock trailer.
 - Report animal movements both in and off your farm to DairyTrace or SimpliTRACE, ideally within 24 hours for rapid traceback capability.
 - Isolate and monitor new and returning animals for clinical signs for 30 days, especially if there is a risk these animals were in contact with animals from the U.S. or affected areas or infected animals.
 - Update your proAction procedures, train staff on your heightened biosecurity practices and increase herd monitoring for signs of illness.

To limit the risk of introducing or spreading virus from people or objects

- Limit visitors to your barn to essential suppliers.
- Ask suppliers questions about the farms they visited, and biosecurity practices they followed.
 - Insist that they clean equipment that has been in contact with animals, milk, urine or excrement from other farms. If they have been in affected areas, or on US farms, consider refusing entry or provide clean disposable coveralls and boots and ways to disinfect gear prior to entering.
- Keep a log of all visitors in case traceback becomes necessary.
- If service providers must enter barn/have close contact with your cattle:
 - Ensure they wear only clean clothes/coveralls in the dairy barn and disinfect or change boots when entering the barn to prevent inadvertently bringing in viruses on clothes or boots.
 - Work with young and healthy cattle first, and with sick cattle last.
 - Clean and disinfect boots and equipment after being in the sick area to avoid spreading viruses elsewhere.
- Restrict access to unnecessary vehicles that move between farms as they can also be a vector carrying and transmitting live viruses.

To reduce risk from wildlife

- Make the farmyard as unwelcoming to birds as you can by removing bird boxes near barns.
- Minimize risks of contamination to water supply by wild birds or other animals (e.g., skunks, raccoons) that may also carry the virus.
- Keep feed in enclosed areas, under a roof or covered to reduce access by birds and other animals.
- Quickly clean up feed that may have spilled on the ground.
- Avoid bringing a tractor/equipment that is typically accessible to birds inside the barn.

If you find dead or neurologic animals (for example wild birds, raccoons, etc.) on the premises, do not handle them. Contact your local office of the [Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative \(CWHC\)](#), and contact your veterinarian if cats exhibit unusual signs.

Signs to watch for on the farm

If you detect the following symptoms [or clinical signs](#) in your herd, contact your veterinarian immediately:

- sudden decrease in milk production;
- colostrum-like consistency of milk;
- negative or trace positive California Mastitis Test (CMT) result;
- decreased feed intake;
- decreased rumen motility;
- respiratory signs, including clear nasal discharge;
- sometimes fever.

What to do if HPAI is suspected or confirmed on your farm

- Contact your regular herd veterinarian.
- Isolate sick cows immediately so they do not have access to the same feed or water as healthy cattle.
- Milk sick cows separately and last, before disinfecting the system.
 - For your personal safety, wear masks, non-ventilated goggles, gloves and protective coverall or apron when handling sick cows.
 - When milking all cows, especially any sick cows, wear gloves that you can disinfect or at least rinse between cows.
 - Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
 - Remove and [bag protective clothing worn](#) when handling sick animals to avoid spreading viruses elsewhere (to healthy cattle, other species, to car, house, etc.).
 - Shower as soon as possible after.
- Train staff and family on protective measures they should take.

Handling the raw milk

- Milk sick cows separately (last) and discard the milk. Sanitize milking equipment before using on healthy cows to avoid potential spread to other cows.
- Feed milk replacer or pasteurize any farm milk that is given to calves, cats, or any other animals on the farm (bring milk to 72°C for 15 seconds).