HPAI – Biosecurity Guidance for Bulk Tank Milk Graders

November 4, 2026

The following guidelines have been developed in consultation with the Ministry of Health and WorkSafe BC for **Bulk Tank Milk Graders (BTMG).**

HPAI findings have determined that one of the greatest contributors of HPAI spread is due to high concentrations of the virus being shed into raw milk from infected animals. Therefore, anything that comes in contact with unpasteurized raw milk, spilled milk, etc., may spread the virus to other animals, vehicles, and other objects or materials. Dairy producers and service providers, such as milk transportation, should redouble biosecurity efforts to prevent further spread.

Although avian influenza viruses can infect people when the virus enters the body through the mouth, eyes, or nose; and therefore, additional personal protective equipment (PPE) is required and extra care must be taken when grading, sampling, handling, and transporting raw milk.

Dairy farms that have animals test positive for HPAI will still be eligible to ship milk from healthy animals for pasteurization, as pasteurization has been shown to kill the virus. Milk from clinically ill animals will be disposed of on farm. BTMGs will be made aware of any farms on their milk routes that have tested positive for HPAI in their dairy cows and these farms will be picked up last on the milk route.

It is essential that BTMGs maintain the inside of their cabs as a “clean zone” and prevent contaminated materials (ex. Boots, clothing, hands, equipment, vials) from entering the truck cab at any time. Contaminated materials pose a risk to the BTMGs health, and the health of other farms on the milk route. BTMGs are not authorized to access any areas other than the milk house during milk pick-up.

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Biosecurity Requirements on HPAI positive and suspected farms

For a farm to be eligible for milk pick-up, they must meet biosecurity requirements set out by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food. These requirements include:

1) Conduct cleaning and decontaminating procedures on all incoming vehicles, including the milk truck. BTMGs are not authorized to exit their vehicles until they have entered the controlled access zone (CAZ) with their acquired personal protective equipment.
2) The farm must establish biosecurity zones on their farm which designate the **Controlled Access Zone (CAZ), Restricted Access Zone (RAZ), Cleaning and Decontamination Zone (C&D)** and **Transition Points (TP)**.
    a. The CAZ creates a functional zone with a distinguishable perimeter that includes business critical areas, including the milk house of the dairy operation within it.
    b. The CAZ perimeter must be visibly marked with proper signage and be visibly clear to those crossing it. All TPs into or out of the interior area should be secured.
3) The CAZ access point(s) must contain C&D zones with the means to remove physical debris and then disinfect vehicles, equipment, and items needing to enter the CAZ.
    a. Vehicles, including milk trucks, must be cleaned and decontaminated upon entering the CAZ and leaving the CAZ.
        i. A pressurized water source must be used to remove debris and other contaminants from the vehicle's exterior surfaces
        ii. Additional cleaning with brushes etc., should be conducted as needed to remove contaminants from the undercarriage and tires

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iii. Disinfectant must be used to decontaminate the truck and trailer tires after they have been cleaned before the truck proceeds to the milk house

b. The C&D zone must include a PPE area, trash bin for PPE disposal, hand sanitization/washing station (or provide disposable gloves), and visitor logbook.

c. The C&D zone must be operated and maintained by the farm's Biosecurity Manager. If issues with C&D, PPE or other elements arise, please contact Erin Cuthbert or Victoria Hergott before proceeding into the CAZ

4) The CAZ access point utilized by the milk truck must provide the following list of PPE to the BTMG once the truck has been decontaminated:

a. Disposable fluid-resistant coveralls

b. Boot covers

c. Medical mask

d. Face shields or safety goggles

e. Disposable gloves

The BTMG will don PPE once they have arrived at the milk house and exited the milk truck. The BTMG is not authorized to re-enter the milk truck until milk transfer is complete. Please ensure you have everything required to proceed before exiting.

5) A PPE disposal station must be established outside the milk house for BTMGs to dispose of all their PPE after completing all milk pick-up related activities.

a. Reusable PPE should be placed in the designated container provided by the farm if intended for disinfection.

b. All PPE will be disposed of if not otherwise indicated.

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Supplies on the Milk Truck

BTMGs should have the following supplies stored inside the cab of their trucks:

- Emergency PPE such as gloves, safety goggles, boot covers, and disposable coveralls
- Whirl-pak bags for milk sample vial storage
- Extra labels for whirl-pak bags
- Blue sterile pads stored in Ziploc bag with sanitizer wipes

Biosecurity Guidelines for Milk Pick-up

Cleaning and Decontaminating – Entry

Upon arrival at the farm, the milk truck will be required to cross the CAZ transition point; therefore, the milk truck driver is required to follow the C&D procedures at the C&D zones.

At the C&D zone (located at the main CAZ access point), the BTMG must follow this procedure:

1) The dairy farm's Biosecurity Manager or farm personnel will remove the driveway barrier to allow the milk truck to proceed to the C&D Zone.
2) Biosecurity manager will pass you the Visitor Sign-in Logbook. You can open your door to reach the log book.
3) C&D zone wash procedures:
    a. C&D procedures must be completed by the farm staff, the BTMG must remain in the vehicle.
        i. Cleaning
        ii. Decontamination
        iii. Disinfection

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b. You will be required to roll your truck forward during C&D procedures to ensure all tire surfaces are cleaned

4) PPE kits will be placed on top of the pump box for the BTMG to use when they arrive at the milk house.
    a. The PPE / PPE kit required for completing milk pick-up includes:
        i. Disposable fluid-resistant coveralls
        ii. Boot covers
        iii. Medical / N95 mask
        iv. Face shields or safety goggles
        v. Disposable gloves
5) Proceed to the milk house once the truck has been disinfected and you have the appropriate PPE.

Milk House Procedures

6) Before exiting the cab of the truck prepare the milk sample vials and ensure you have all the equipment needed for milk pick-up, including the Ziploc sterile blue pad. You **CANNOT** return to the cab of your truck once you exit until all milk pick-up procedures are completed and PPE is disposed of.
7) Exit the cab and don your PPE in the following order:
    a. Disposable fluid-resistant coveralls
    b. Boot covers
    c. Medical mask
    d. Face shields or safety goggles
    e. Disposable gloves
8) Place the Ziploc bag containing the blue sterile pad on the steps of your truck
9) If disposable gloves become torn during milk pick-up, dispose of the gloves, wash your hands with soap and water at the milk house sink, and don a new pair of gloves

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Carefully follow regular milk pick-up procedures; however, do not re-enter the cab of the milk truck until all milk pick-up procedures are completed and PPE has been disposed of.

10) When the milk sample has been collected:
    a. Vials should be barcoded and marked as normal, and
    b. Be identified as an 'Active HPAI' farm by placing the vial inside the whirl-pack bag with the coloured waterproof adhesive sticker attached to the side:



11) Before placing the whirl-pack bagged sample into your cooler, submerge the entire whirl-pack bag into your sanitizer solution to disinfect the outside. Place the whirl-pack bag in your cooler.
12) When milk transfer is complete:
    a. Disinfect the inside of the pump compartment and around the cooler using the disinfectant solution provided by the farm

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b. Remove the milk transfer hose from the milk house and use the provided disinfectant solution to disinfect the external surfaces of the milk hose before storing it inside the pump compartment.

If the milk transfer hose is leaking during milk pick-up, please report this incident to your supervisor immediately. Leaking milk hoses must be repaired or replaced before proceeding to the next farm or processing plant.

13) If this is the last farm on the milk route, collect the load sample before removing any PPE. Load sample(s) should be placed in whirl-pack bags and affixed with a coloured waterproof adhesive sticker. Submerge the whirl-pack bag in your sanitizer solution before adding to the cooler.
14) The handheld and any other equipment that is returning to the cab must be disinfected before doing so. Ensure your gloved hands are clean, remove the blue sterile pad from its Ziploc bag and place on the steps of your truck. Use sanitization wipes or sanitizer solution to disinfect the surfaces of your handheld and equipment, and place the equipment on the blue sterile pad
15) Dispose of your used PPE in the designated disposal bag located outside the milk house. Remove mask and safety goggles first, followed by boot covers, and then coveralls. Remove gloves last. **If you need to re-enter the milk house, new PPE must be donned.**
16) Once PPE is disposed of, collect the sanitized equipment from the blue sterile pad, dispose of the blue sterile pad, and re-enter the cab of the milk truck.

Cleaning and Decontaminating – Exit

17) Proceed to the C&D zone: Farm staff must complete C&D procedures before you are authorized to leave the premises

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Appendix A - Dairy Farm Biosecurity Zones and Milk Route

Producers will be required to provide biosecurity maps to the Ministry of Agriculture to be approved for milk pick-up. These maps will be supplied to milk transport.



Cleaning and Decontamining Zone / Station

STOP Required stop / checkpoint for milk truck

Controlled Access Zone Transition Point

BTMG PPE Disposal Station at the Milk House

Milk truck route

Cleaning and Decontaminating Zone

Restricted Access Zone

Controlled Access Zone

Appendix B – Farm with single Entry / Access Point and C&D Zone/Station located inside the CAZ



Controlled Access Zone

Cleaning and Decontaminating Zone

Restricted Access Zone

Transition Point

PPE Disposal

Visitor Parking

Residential Area

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Appendix C – Farm with different entrance and exit transition points with multiple C&D Zones / Stations



Controlled Access Zone

Restricted Access Zone

Cleaning and decontaminating Zone

Milk house PPE Disposal Station

CAZ Transition Point

Clean and Disinfect Station (C&D) → BTMG PPE collected here

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