

# SUSPICION OF A SERIOUS ANIMAL DISEASE

## THE FIRST 48 HOURS FOR PRODUCERS



### PURPOSE

To provide a guide that producers can follow in the hours after being notified by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) that there is a suspicion of a federally regulated disease on your farm.

### CONTEXT

The CFIA cannot inform members of the public that they are conducting an investigation on your herd (*Privacy Act*). There are certain exceptions to this rule that can be made with your consent. For example, you can provide CFIA with consent to reach out to your veterinarian.

CFIA can and will impose movement restrictions on suspicion of disease. However, it may take time for this to be put in place. This document provides a list of actions you can take during the time period required for the CFIA to arrive and assess your premises. There is always the potential that your herd is negative, so the steps you take need to be measured, responsible and complete.

Please consider the following actions to protect yourself, your herd, and your business.

#### COMMUNICATE



#### IMMEDIATELY!




- **Contact your veterinarian to provide a complete description of the situation. If it is after hours, a weekend or a holiday call the emergency number and speak to the veterinarian on call.**
- Inform family members, employees and all owners of animals that are on the property of the situation.
- Notify the driver of any conveyance transporting your animals if applicable.
- Inform your veterinarian that you have provided consent to CFIA for him/her to discuss the disease situation with them.
- Postpone movements of non-essential employees in order to minimize people movement onto and off the farm. For example, feed deliveries, milk trucks, employees currently on farm, employees scheduled to arrive, animals already loaded in a truck but still on the property, farm related children's activities etc.

#### UNTIL CFIA INSTRUCTIONS ARE IN PLACE

- Inform anyone who has had direct contact with the animals in the last few days.
- Inform anyone who has received a shipment of animals from you in the last few days.

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<p><b>ENHANCE BIOSECURITY</b></p> 	<p><b>IMMEDIATELY!</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Shut and secure farm gates.</li><li>• Isolate sick animals.</li><li>• If possible, dedicate a specific employee to the affected animal(s).</li><li>• Do not move or allow others to move animals off the property.</li><li>• Leave dead animals in place.</li><li>• Inform CFIA if there are animals that need to be euthanized.</li><li>• Plan animal care so that healthy animals are cared for first.</li><li>• Organize and use dedicated clothing, equipment, water and feed sources for sick or suspect animals.</li><li>• Wash hands frequently. Clean (or change) footwear frequently.</li></ul> <p><b>UNTIL CFIA INSTRUCTIONS ARE IN PLACE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Minimize people (family, employees, etc.) movements onto and off the farm.</li><li>• Do not have contact with other farms or people who work on other farms.</li><li>• If anyone must leave your farm premises, have them change clothing and footwear prior to leaving the premises and use appropriate exit protocol.</li><li>• Keep a detailed log of all movements onto or off the premises.</li></ul>
<p><b>PREPARE FOR ON-FARM INVESTIGATION</b></p> 	<p><b>UNTIL CFIA INSTRUCTIONS ARE IN PLACE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Gather all relevant documents, including health records and copies of production and mortality records.</li><li>• Review your visitor log and ensure that you have a list of on-farm traffic, visitors, and livestock movement to and from your premises during the previous 21 days.</li></ul>
<p><b>SUPPORT</b></p> 	<p><b>This will be a very stressful situation you will need support.</b></p> <p>Reach out to your veterinarian, producer association and / or marketing board among others to ensure that you have the support you need.</p>