



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Safeguarding the Ontario Chicken Industry against COVID-19**  
***We're all in this together***

**MARCH 27, 2020** - The information surrounding COVID-19 is vast and continually evolving.

The Association of Ontario Chicken Processors (AOCP), Chicken Farmers of Ontario (CFO), Ontario Agri Business Association (OABA), Ontario Broiler Hatching Egg and Chick Commission (OBHECC), Ontario Hatcheries Association (OHA) and Poultry Service Association (PSA) have collaborated to communicate the following health and safety measures to all relevant stakeholders in the Ontario chicken industry.

Together, we are committed to ensuring the Ontario chicken industry remains reliable and strong during the pandemic. Collectively, we are working hard to ensure Ontarians have access to a steady supply of fresh, locally grown chicken.

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**FOR CFO FARMER-MEMBERS & OBHECC FARMERS:**

**Health and safety measures that must be implemented by Ontario chicken farmers during the COVID-19 pandemic:**

- 1) BE EXTRA VIGILANT – Do your part to reduce the risk to public health and supply chain disruptions**
- 2) ON-FARM VISITORS - Physical distancing is critical to stopping the spread of COVID-19**
  - All non-essential on-farm visits must be postponed
  - Limit exposure by limiting on-farm visits as much as possible
  - Farmers must ensure they practice physical distancing when industry personnel are on-farm
    - This means staying at least six feet away from others
- 3) SELF-ISOLATION PROTOCOL – Physical distancing is critical to stopping the spread of COVID-19**
  - Farmers who have been exposed to, or suspect exposure to COVID-19 must self-isolate and follow Ontario Ministry of Health (MOH) guidelines
  - Farmers who are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 must self isolate and follow MOH guidelines
  - Farmers who have traveled outside of Canada must self-isolate for 14 days upon return, as per MOH guidelines
  - Farmers who are self-isolating should not go to work or be in their barns

- Farmers who are self-isolating must not be present while industry personnel are on their farm. They must designate an alternate person to be present or be available by telephone during this time
- CFO farmer-members who are self-isolating must notify CFO at [covid19@ontariochicken.ca](mailto:covid19@ontariochicken.ca) and any applicable industry stakeholders who are required to visit their farm

**4) HANDWASHING & SANITATION - Proper hand washing and sanitation is critical to stopping the spread of COVID-19**

- Farmers must practice MOH handwashing guidelines
- Farmers must thoroughly wipe down any common-area surfaces and entry point(s) to the barn with disinfectant
- As applicable, farmers must suspend the availability of in-house washrooms for industry personnel use (this is for the safety and protection of everyone)
  - If farmers do not have in-barn washroom facilities, they must make every reasonable effort to provide portable washroom facilities with handwashing and sanitation supplies for industry personnel to use
  - If portable washrooms that include water for handwashing are not available for rent, running water could be provided by way of a large water jug which includes a spout or a pump, a soap dispenser and paper towels - in addition to the portable washroom
  - We recognize there is a shortage of hand sanitizer. Farmers must make every reasonable effort to obtain a supply of hand sanitizer for their farm

**FOR INDUSTRY STAKEHOLDERS:**

Health and safety measures that must be implemented by Ontario chicken industry personnel during the COVID-19 pandemic as it pertains to going on-farm:

- 1) BE EXTRA VIGILANT – Do your part to reduce the risk to public health and supply chain disruptions**
- 2) GOING ON-FARM - Physical distancing is critical to stopping the spread of COVID-19**
  - All non-essential on-farm visits must be postponed
  - Industry personnel must ensure they practice physical distancing when on-farm
    - This means staying at least six feet away from others
- 3) SELF-ISOLATION PROTOCOL – Physical distancing is critical to stopping the spread of COVID-19**
  - Industry personnel who have been exposed to, or suspect exposure to COVID-19 must self-isolate and follow Ontario Ministry of Health (MOH) guidelines
  - Industry personnel who are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 must self isolate and follow MOH guidelines
  - Industry personnel who have traveled outside of Canada must self-isolate for 14 days upon return, as per MOH guidelines
  - Industry personnel must follow additional guidelines as stipulated by their independent employers and/or associations



Ontario  
Poultry  
Association



- 4) **HANDWASHING & SANITATION** - Proper hand washing and sanitation is critical to stopping the spread of COVID-19
- Industry personnel must practice MOH hand washing guidelines

#### **Additional Resources:**

- [ontariochicken.ca](https://ontariochicken.ca) COVID-19 Information section
- [Ontario Ministry of Health COVID-19 guidelines](#)
- [Public Health Agency of Canada \(PHAC\) factsheet on COVID-19](#)
- [PHAC Coronavirus disease \(COVID-19\): Prevention and risks](#)
- [Canadian Agricultural Human Resource Council regarding COVID-19](#)
- [World Animal Health Organisation \(OIE\) Questions and Answers on COVID-19](#)

#### **Questions about this communication?**

- CFO farmer-members should e-mail [covid19@ontariochicken.ca](mailto:covid19@ontariochicken.ca)
- OBHECC farmers should e-mail [info@obhecc.com](mailto:info@obhecc.com)
- Industry personnel should contact their individual employers and/or associations