

## ***INFECTIOUS LARYNGOTRACHEITIS (ILT) BIOSECURITY ADVISORY (Update #4 – Niagara Region)***

**January 15, 2021**

On behalf of the four feather boards, the Feather Board Command Centre (FBCC) is issuing another update to the [Dec. 1 ILT Disease Biosecurity Advisory](#) to all poultry farmers and small flock growers within an Area around Smithville in Niagara Region. The [Biosecurity Advisory Area](#) has been expanded several km eastwards.

A 10-week-old, 15,000-bird pullet/layer flock, 9 km southeast of the index farm has tested positive for ILT. Mortalities to date are confined to first floor of the 2-storey barn. Flock has been vaccinated earlier for ILT. Owner is working with their veterinarian to resolve the situation. **This is the 5<sup>th</sup> ILT case since Dec. 1 when this outbreak first began.**

The situation at the other 4 infected premises seems stable currently. Clean up protocols have been completed and new vaccinated chicks placed in the 3 broiler chicken farms. Mortalities have returned to normal in the layer flock. These 4 premises are considered to still be “infected” so heightened biosecurity, careful monitoring of flock health and rapid reporting throughout the expanded Biosecurity Advisory Area is paramount.

Travel within the Area by all service providers or auditors should be restricted to essential travel. Necessary multiple stops within the area should be sequenced from lower risk to higher risk. Clean clothing and proper vehicle disinfection are critical. Stops in this Area should be last of the day. Please try to avoid going to another farm within 24 hours. Board staff are adhering to these protocols and it is expected all of industry will do the same.

Active virus pressures are still present in the area. This highly contagious virus can survive in litter and on equipment and can even spread through dust particles in the air. The incubation period can be up to two weeks before clinical signs appear. Please exercise caution. All poultry farmers and growers should notify their veterinarian and their respective Board immediately if their flocks experience increased mortality or abnormal clinical signs. **To protect your incoming broiler chicks, we recommend that you consult with your veterinarian to ensure appropriate preventive measures are in place.** Any shipment of poultry products should be carefully routed to minimize risk of spread.

This virus is not transmissible to humans or to other mammals and the chicken is safe to eat. Consumers can be assured that Ontario poultry farmers follow world-leading bio-security protocols.

It is likely the Biosecurity Advisory Area will be maintained until at least late February. All previous updates to this outbreak and resource materials are available at [www.fbcc.ca](http://www.fbcc.ca).

