

General Order AIV2026-02

Order to report Movement of Washington Origin Cattle onto BC Premises

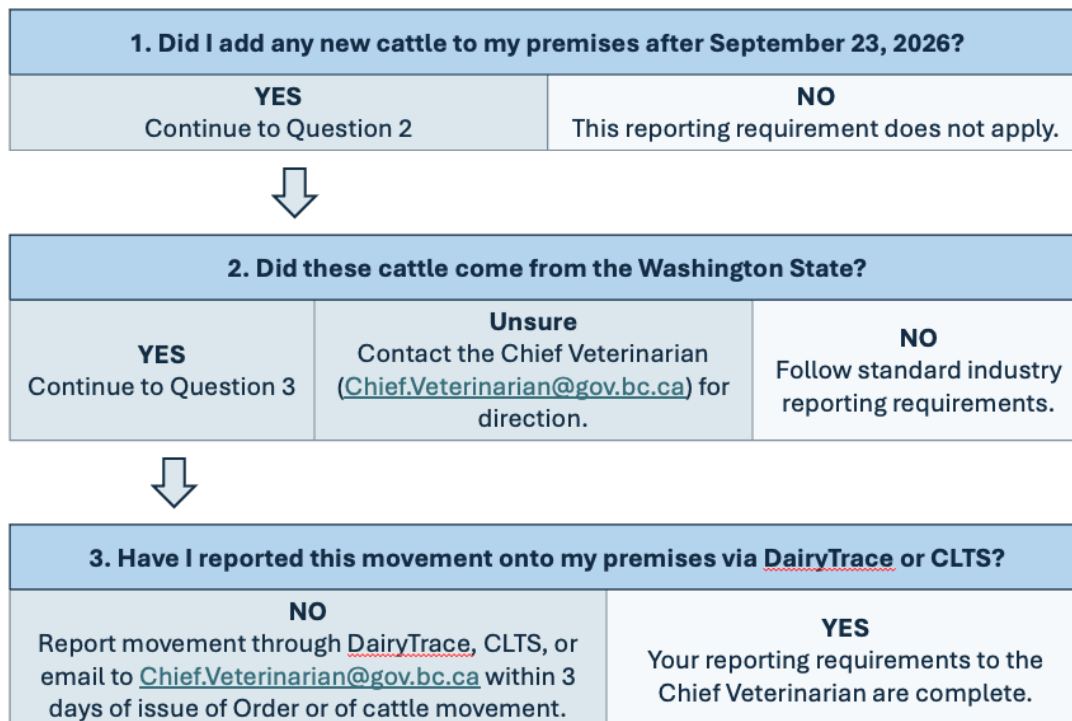
Frequently Asked Questions for BC cattle farmers

QUICK SUMMARY

- The Order applies to cattle that were imported into British Columbia (BC) from Washington State after September 23, 2026 and either were temporarily housed at, or currently reside on, a BC premises.
- These movement events (i.e., any movement of cattle from Washington to BC premises) **must** be reported to the Chief Veterinarian.
- Reporting can occur through DairyTrace OR the Canadian Livestock Tracking System (CLTS) OR by email to Chief.Veterinarian@gov.bc.ca.
- The report must include the Premises ID Number for the farm in BC, date(s) of movement, and the animal identification number(s).

Do I need to report?

Use this quick decision tree for each cattle movement.



Frequently Asked Questions

Why has this Order been issued?

The Order establishes reporting requirements for cattle imported into BC from Washington State after September 23, 2026, due to the new and unexpected detection of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) on a number of **Washington dairy farms** in early October.

What does the Order apply to?

The Order applies to **cattle (beef or dairy) of any age that were imported from Washington State after September 23, 2026** that either transited through or currently reside on a British Columbia premises.

What is a “British Columbia premises”?

For this Order, a BC premises is any location in BC to which cattle are transported. Typically, this would be a farm, feedlot or heifer rearing facility, but it could be an assembly yard, show ground, or other animal holding facility.

Who is responsible for complying with the Order and completing the reporting requirements?

The person responsible for reporting the movement is the **person responsible for the premises and the animals on it**. In most cases this would be the owner of the animals and/or farm, but it could be a leaser, broker, or other responsible person.

Does the Order apply only to the farm that first receives the cattle from the United States?

No. The requirement is not limited to the first destination in BC. **It applies when qualifying cattle are moved onto any BC premises** (i.e., even if they stopped somewhere else along the way, or the premises was not their final destination).

Does the Order apply to livestock dealers or brokers?

Yes. The requirement applies when qualifying cattle are moved onto any premises in BC whether it is a temporary holding facility or a more permanent home for the animals. **Dealers and brokers responsible for any BC premises that houses animals are included in the Order.**

Does this apply only to dairy cattle?

No. **The Order is NOT limited to dairy cattle.** Although the primary concern is HPAI in dairy cattle, staff at the Office of the Chief Veterinarian must account for importation and movement of dairy, beef, and dairy-beef crosses.

I imported cattle before September 23, 2026. Do I have to report them?

No. The Order applies to cattle imported **after** September 23, 2026.

If the cattle are moved more than once within B.C., does each movement need to be reported?

Yes. The requirement applies each time qualifying cattle are moved onto a BC premises. This includes temporary stopovers during transportation.

How long will this order stay in place?

We recognize that the Order will increase paperwork for producers. Our goal is to remove the order as soon as possible. We will be closely monitoring the HPAI outbreak in Washington and the rest of the US to assess the level of risk, and we will remove the Order when risk is decreased again.

How to report

What information do I need to provide?

Your report must include:

- the Premises ID Number for the BC location to which the cattle were moved; and
- date the movement occurred; and
- the animal identification number(s) for the cattle. These are the animal's RFID ear tag button numbers and/or the metal ear tag numbers. For US cattle, they begin with 840.

How do I submit the report?

Submit the movement through DairyTrace, Canadian Livestock Tracking System (CLTS), or email the information to Chief.Veterinarian@gov.bc.ca.

When is the report due?

If the cattle were moved onto a BC premises after September 23, 2026, but before the date of the Order, report within three days of the date of the Order. If the cattle are moved on or after the date of the Order, report within three days of the movement date.

What if I have already reported the movement through DairyTrace?

A movement reported through DairyTrace or Canadian Livestock Tracking System (CLTS) does not also need to be emailed.

What if I do not know whether the cattle came from Washington State?

US Animal Identification Numbers (the 15 digits numbers on the metal ear tags) begin with 840. It can be difficult to be sure which state animals may have originated in before importation to Canada as they may be assembled from multiple states. If you acquired new cattle with 840 Animal Identification Numbers, and you are not sure where they came from, contact Chief.Veterinarian@gov.bc.ca for direction.

What happens after I report?

What will happen when I report?

The Premises ID Number and animal identification number(s) will help the Chief Veterinarian identify where cattle covered by the Order have been moved and support the animal health response. Reporting does not mean that your cattle are infected or that there is a problem on your farm. It will not impact your ability to ship milk.

After you report, staff from the Office of the Chief Veterinarian may contact you. In some cases, the first follow up action is confirming whether the animals are beef or dairy. In some cases, a second testing step may be required to make sure animals are not infected. Test samples will usually be bulk milk tank, and/or individual milk samples from the imported cows. If any testing is required, there will be no cost to the producer, however, we may ask for your help collecting samples.

What if I missed the deadline?

Report the movement as soon as possible through DairyTrace, Canadian Livestock Tracking System (CLTS), or by email to Chief.Veterinarian@gov.bc.ca.

What happens if I choose not to report?

Reporting is a requirement of the Order.

Most importantly, if you do not report, you will not be doing your part to help manage this serious threat to the health of the BC cattle herd. Timely reporting helps protect B.C. cattle and the livestock sector.

In addition, failure to comply with the Order is an offence under section 81 of the Animal Health Act. If an inspector believes the Order is not being adequately followed, the inspector may take action to ensure it is carried out, and the person subject to the Order may be responsible for the costs of that work. You may also be determined to be out of compliance with your industry reporting requirements.

Contact

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF VETERINARIAN

Email: Chief.Veterinarian@gov.bc.ca

Reporting options: DairyTrace, Canadian Livestock Tracking System (CLTS), or email