



## **Biosecurity Requirements for Milk Pick-Up**

*January 7, 2025*

### **What happens to my milk if my farm tests positive for HPAI?**

If your dairy farm tests positive for HPAI, you will be contacted by the Office of the Chief Veterinarian (Ministry of Agriculture and Food), the CFIA, and the Public Health Authority to discuss the situation and take the necessary steps to keep your family and employees safe and healthy, and to try to minimize the spread of HPAI within your herd and to other farms.

### **Active HPAI Farms and Milk Pick-Up**

Your farm will be added to an “Active HPAI” list that is distributed to the BCMMB and your milk transport company to ensure the necessary precautions are taken. You will still be able to ship milk from the healthy cows in your herd. Pasteurization has been shown to kill the HPAI virus. However, care must be taken as there are still risks associated with the handling of raw milk from these animals.

Active HPAI farms can expect to be picked up as the last farm on their milk routes, so pick-up times may be altered.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Food (MAF) is working closely with Public Health, the BCMMB, and milk transport to ensure that milk pick-up on farms on Active HPAI farms can occur in a safe manner. Enhanced procedures regarding the handling of raw milk during milk pick-up have been shared with milk transport companies to ensure their bulk milk tank graders (BTMGs) remain safe and the risk of spreading HPAI to another farm is reduced.

We ask that producers not only uphold the health and safety of their staff, but also do their best to ensure that their BTMGs also remain safe while picking up milk.

### **Requirements for Milk Pick-Up**

During milk pick-up, producers must refrain from conducting any activities within the milk house. Contact with the BTMG must be avoided except in emergency situations. It is highly recommended that farm activities, such as procedures associated with calf feeding or other chores, are not conducted in the milk house until the farm is no longer positive for HPAI. Reducing or eliminating unnecessary foot traffic in the milk house must be considered.

Animals must be always kept out of the milk house. Increased pest control is recommended as mice are known to carry HPAI.

The following requirements **MUST** be met for your farm to be eligible for milk pick-up after testing positive for HPAI:

**Ministry of Agriculture and Food**

**Office of the Chief Veterinarian &  
Animal Health Center**

**Mailing Address:**

1767 Angus Campbell Rd  
Abbotsford, BC V3G 2M3

**Telephone:** 604 556-3003  
**Toll Free:** 1-800-661-9903

**Web Address:**

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/agriculture-seafood/animals-and-crops/animal-health/office-of-the-chief-veterinarian>



## Biosecurity Requirements:

- 1) The farm must establish biosecurity zones on their farm and designate the **Line of Separation (LOS)** and **Clean and Decontamination Stations (C&D Stations)**
  - a. Biosecurity zones establish a “Controlled Access Zone” and a “Restricted Access Zone” (Appendix A). Please see the BCDA *Additional Biosecurity Information for Producers* bulletin.
  - b. The LOS creates a functional zone with a distinguishable perimeter that includes business critical areas of the dairy operation within it.
    - i. Depending on farm layout, the border of the LOS will encompass both the CAZ and RAZ areas of the farm (Appendix C), or
    - ii. An LOS border may be authorized to pass through a CAZ (instead of around the parameter) to accommodate a more effective access point location for the C&D Station (ex. To accommodate a long driveway - See Appendix B)
  - c. The LOS perimeter must be visibly marked with proper signage and be visibly clear to those crossing it. All LOS access points into or out of the interior area should be secured.
- 2) The LOS access point(s) must contain a C&D station with the means to remove physical debris and then disinfect vehicles, equipment, and items needing to cross the LOS
- 3) The C&D stations should include a personal protective equipment (PPE) area, trash bin for PPE disposal, footwear disinfection station, hand sanitization station, and visitor logbook.
  - a. Crossing the LOS requires at a minimum the use of footbath/spray down, use of hand sanitizer or hand washing, and vehicle C&D.
  - b. Vehicles, including milk trucks, should be cleaned upon entering the LOS and leaving the LOS.
    - i. Cleaning should include the tires and interior cab floor mats if the vehicle crosses the LOS and the occupant(s) exit the vehicles
  - c. Please ensure that all visitors and service providers to the farm sign the logbook upon arrival and departure. Public Health may require the logbook at any time
  - d. PPE required for completing milk pick-up protocols must be ready for collection by the BTMG.
    - Disposable fluid-resistant coveralls
    - Boot covers or boot wash
    - Medical mask
    - Face shields or safety goggles
    - Disposable gloves

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The C&D station should be operated and maintained by individuals (ie. the Biosecurity Manager) trained on the farm's biosecurity protocols

- 4) The farm must establish a PPE disposal site at the milk house
  - a. Once the BTMG completed milk pick-up and exits the milk house for the last time, the PPE will be disposed of before the BTMG re-enters the cab of the milk truck
  - b. Designated containers can be provided for re-usable PPE such as safety goggles and face shields that can be sanitized for re-use.
  - c. Disinfectant solution must be provided for the BTMG to disinfect the milk transfer hose and other equipment used during milk pick-up

Please note that farms with milk houses located along roadways may have a combined C&D Station and PPE disposal station on site (see Appendix C). BTMGs will receive guidance documents for LOS and C&D procedures on farm.

**Please refer to Requirements for Establishing Lines of Separation and Cleaning & Decontamination Stations document for further guidance and the Biosecurity Checklist. Please do not hesitate to reach out to Erin Cuthbert (MAF) or Morgan Sangster (BC Dairy) for assistance.**

**Please refer to the “Biosecurity Checklist” attached at the end of this document.**

#### **Milk House Requirements:**

- 1) Milk houses must be kept clean and tidy at all times. Floors and walls must be free from dirt, mud, manure, debris, etc.
- 2) Milk house floors must have adequate drainage and be free from standing water
- 3) Hand washing facilities must be operational and clean. BTMGs must be able to wash their hands before, during, and after milk pick-up.
  - i. BTMGs will be donning additional personal protective equipment while on your farm, but this does not take the place of clean environmental conditions or hand washing
- 4) The hose used for rinsing the tank must be in good working order.
- 5) External surfaces of the bulk tank, including the ladder, must be kept clean
- 6) No animals shall be in or around the milk house at any time. It is highly recommended that producers do not provide raw milk to their farm cats and dogs during this time.

Failure to meet the requirements above will result in the disqualification of a farm from milk pick-up.

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Please feel free to contact Erin Cuthbert with any questions or concerns regarding milk pick-up procedures or requirements on your farm.

For questions regarding the health of your dairy animals, please contact your herd veterinarian.

#### **Further Information About Human Health:**

While rare, avian influenza virus can also infect people and can cause severe illness. Further, influenza viruses are adaptable and can change markedly when strains from humans or different animal species mix and exchange genetic information. Therefore, it is important to promptly detect avian influenza infection in people, minimize co-infections of human and avian influenza viruses, and monitor for any further transmission. Guidance is [to contact a physician if you experience any flu-like symptoms](#) and let them know about the exposure to avian influenza virus.

**[Highly pathogenic avian influenza \(HPAI\) in livestock - Canadian Food Inspection Agency \(canada.ca\)](#)**

**[Guidance on human health issues related to avian influenza in Canada - Canada.ca](#)  
**[CCOHS: How to Protect Yourself from Avian Influenza A\(H5N1\) at Work](#)****

**[Avian influenza - Province of British Columbia \(gov.bc.ca\)](#)**

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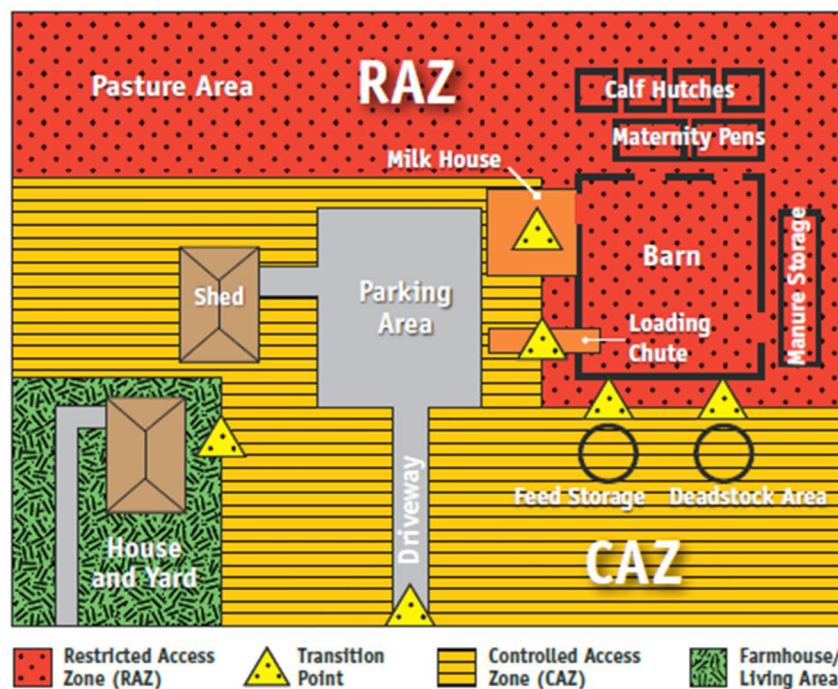
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## 2.2 Designate biosecurity zones

All components of a dairy farm should not be considered at equal risk relative to biosecurity concerns. Therefore, once the farm layout and facility design has been considered and the farm diagram(s) created, biosecurity zones can be established on your farm. The idea of zones is that they contain areas of similar biosecurity risk, and moving between them, generally through a predetermined access point, requires care and specific practices to avoid cross-contamination. Relative risk zones help to conceptualize the biosecurity plan as it applies to animals, facilities and management. The key idea is to concentrate the majority of efforts in identified high-risk zones.

**Figure 2:** Sample dairy farm diagram with a Controlled Access Zone and Restricted Access Zone



*This figure shows two biosecurity zones, a Controlled Access Zone (CAZ) and a Restricted Access Zone (RAZ) for a simple dairy farm site comprised of one barn with a limited number of outbuildings.*

*The RAZ contains the high risk areas, including animal housing (barn, calf hutches, and maternity pens) as well as pasture areas and manure storage. The CAZ surrounds the RAZ, separating it from the house and yard, and contains storage sheds for feed and deadstock, as well as visitor parking. A transition point is present at each location where there is access to either the CAZ or the RAZ.*



Appendix B – Single LOS Access Point and C&D Station



**Appendix C – Combined C&D Station and PPE Disposal Station**



**Milk Truck Positioning along milk house:**



Line of Separation (LOS) border may be authorized to pass through a CAZ (instead of around the parameter) to accommodate a more effective access point location for the C&D Station

Controlled Access Zone

Restricted Access Zone

▲ Clean and Disinfect Station (C&D) and PPE Disposal

## Appendix C – Multiple LOS Access Points and C&D Stations



Controlled Access Zone

Restricted Access Zone

Line of Separation (LOS) encompasses all biosecurity zones. The C&D station should be located as close to the LOS perimeter as possible

▲ Clean and Disinfect Station (C&D) and PPE Disposable Station

▲ Milk house PPE Disposal Station