



Canadian Poultry and Egg Processors Council
Conseil canadien des transformateurs d'œufs et de volailles

March 31, 2022

Tom Shurrie
President & CEO
Canadian Federation of Independent Grocers
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North York, ON M2H 3P8
Email: tshurrie@cfig.ca

RE: Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza – Update from Processors

Dear Mr. Shurrie,

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) announced this week the presence of highly pathogenic avian influenza in commercial poultry flocks in Ontario. This follows the finding of cases in Atlantic Canada earlier this year, and the presence of avian influenza across much of the United States. Given this, we understand that consumer awareness of avian influenza is growing, and that they may have questions about avian influenza and how its presence might impact them.

Here are some messages you may wish to pass on to your members and Canadian consumers:

- **There is no risk to food safety:** avian influenza is not a foodborne disease and is not passed on to humans as the result of eating poultry or eggs.
- **CFIA is leading the response to avian influenza findings:** where avian influenza is found, everyone in the poultry and egg supply chain follows restrictions imposed by the CFIA to limit the spread of the virus, including strict movement controls.
- **Enhanced biosecurity measures are being followed:** in addition to these CFIA measures, the Canadian poultry and egg industry follows strict and enhanced biosecurity measures.

Producers, processors, suppliers and governments are working hand-in-hand to mitigate the effects and spread of avian influenza in Canada. For the most up-to-date information on avian influenza in Canada, measures followed by CFIA and general information on avian influenza, please refer to the websites listed on the next page. In addition, please do not hesitate to contact me should you or your members have any questions or concerns.

Regards,

Jean-Michel Laurin
President & CEO

Government of Canada Information on Avian Influenza

- **Canadian Food Inspection Agency – Detection of highly pathogenic avian influenza (H5N1) in Canada:**
<https://inspection.canada.ca/animal-health/terrestrial-animals/diseases/reportable/avian-influenza/detection-of-highly-pathogenic-avian-influenza-h5n/eng/1640207916497/1640207916934>
- **Canadian Food Inspection Agency Fact Sheet on Avian Influenza:**
<https://inspection.canada.ca/animal-health/terrestrial-animals/diseases/reportable/avian-influenza/fact-sheet/eng/1356193731667/1356193918453#a3>