

## **INFECTIOUS LARYNGOTRACHEITIS (ILT) DISEASE - FARMER ADVISORY Niagara Region**

**March 16, 2018**

On behalf of the four feather boards, the Feather Board Command Centre (FBCC) is issuing an ILT Disease Advisory to all poultry farmers and small flock growers in a 10 km radius in northwest Niagara Region.

FBCC has been notified by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA), that ILT has been diagnosed on a commercial broiler chicken farm in the northwest area of the Niagara Region. OMAFRA reports that the farmer is following proper biosecurity protocols and the situation is under control. Farmers and small flock growers within the 10 km biosecurity area around the infected farm are being contacted and advised to enhance their biosecurity programs.

This is the first diagnosis of ILT in an Ontario broiler chicken flock in several years. The high broiler chicken density in the area creates the potential for spread to other unvaccinated birds. Please reinforce your biosecurity protocols including monitoring the movement of birds, people and equipment onto and off of the farm in the interest of flock health.

Should you suspect any signs of health concerns in your flock, please contact your veterinarian as well as your Board. ILT is a serious contagious disease caused by a respiratory virus primarily in laying hens and chickens. Signs to look out for include: increased mortality, noisy breathing, head-shaking, off feed, decreased egg production, inactivity, ruffled feathers and conjunctivitis.

Please advise any visitors to your premises of your biosecurity protocols because of this situation and keep a logbook of movement in relation to your farm. Minimize visits to other poultry production sites, avoid exchanging equipment with other poultry production sites or ensure that it is washed and disinfected. Ensure all personnel in contact with birds wear boots, protective suits, head coverings and gloves/handwashing. Ensure adequate control of vermin and wild birds.

Further biosecurity information for small flock growers is available at <http://www.inspection.gc.ca/animals/terrestrial-animals/diseases/bird-health-basics/eng/1323643634523/1323644740109>.

We anticipate this advisory to remain in place until late April. A stand down advisory will be issued at the appropriate time. Any updates will be provided through [www.fbcc.ca](http://www.fbcc.ca)

