

## Plant Operations & Slaughter Houses

COVID-19 preventative measures need to be taken in plant operations and in slaughter houses to prevent the spread of COVID-19 amongst the employees and CFIA inspectors who work in this essential service in the agricultural industry. Risk of exposure of COVID-19 in the plant operation and slaughter house environment is high and risk mitigation procedures are required to protect the workers' health and safety.

Measures may include updated procedures on how plant specific and slaughter house tasks are performed, postponing non-essential tasks and communication, cleaning and disinfecting procedures and schedules, physical distancing requirements, health screening protocol for employees and CFIA inspectors, reporting illness to the employer, local health authority and CFIA, and a procedure if an employee or CFIA inspector tests positive for COVID-19.

### Notifying the CFIA of COVID-19 Exposure:

1. The plant operator or slaughter house must alert the CFIA of a request for a COVID-19 test or if an employee in a plant or slaughter house tests positive for COVID-19.
2. Specific information required to be passed on to CFIA include:
  - Date of onset of symptoms
  - Date of test request
  - Date of confirmed diagnosis
  - Location(s) the employee worked & areas in the plant operation or slaughter house the employee frequented or visited.
3. The plant operator or slaughter house must notify public health authorities and CFIA if an employee tests positive or showing signs and symptoms to determine the risk to CFIA employees who may have been present at the plant operation or slaughter house.
4. The plant operation or slaughter house will use the advice of public health, when given, to investigate the origin of the COVID-19 exposure and method of exposure, identify the risk to other workers, and respond accordingly. CFIA will participate in the investigation to determine the health risk to CFIA workers.
  - a. The CFIA investigation team may include a CFIA employee, JHSC member or the area OSH coordinator or advisor, and CFIA management.
5. The plant operation or slaughter house is required to provide a written report of the investigation to the CFIA. The CFIA will then evaluate the risk to CFIA employees and determine if they proceed with work at the plant operation or slaughter house.
6. Depending on the outcome of the investigation the plant operation or slaughter house may need to notify suppliers of the infection to make adjustments as necessary.
7. Depending on the outcome of the investigation, the information collected will be used to make an informed decision on whether a CFIA employee is required to self-isolate, is cleared to continue to work, and/or have further prevention measures implemented at the plant operation or slaughter house.

### Reference:

<https://www.inspection.gc.ca/covid-19/cfia-information-for-industry/guidance-to-meat-slaughter-and-processing-establis/eng/1585620151816/1585620617343>