



March 24, 2020

## **Re: COVID Update for Producers – On-Farm Service Providers**

As you know, agriculture and its' service industries have been deemed essential by the Ontario government.

OSF is asking that you continue to be diligent on having biosecurity measures in place to protect yourself, your family and your livestock. Part of your biosecurity should now include screening everyone entering your farm for risk of exposure to COVID-19. Deny entry to everyone who:

- Has travelled outside of Canada in the past 14 days
- Has been exposed to someone who has travelled outside of Canada in the past 14 days
- Has been exposed to someone who has tested positive to COVID-19, or is suspected to have COVID-19
- Is showing symptoms associated with COVID-19 (cough, fever, difficulty breathing)

Many service providers are on-farm a short time while delivering feed, fuel and crop supplies and it's relatively easy to maintain the recommended social distance of 2 meters (6 feet). Others visits like those with your veterinarian, shearer and pregnancy scanner take longer, and you may be working much more closely with them.

Have you thought about how these visits can be completed while ensuring you've done everything possible to minimize the risk of exposure to COVID-19 both to yourself and to them? What steps have you /can you put in place to ensure everyone's health and safety? How will you address the following?

- Hand-washing and bathroom facilities that are separate from the farm-house.
- If you normally provide meals / snacks can you still provide these somewhere other than the farmhouse?
- Can the work be done without your assistance? Where assistance is necessary, restrict the number to only those absolutely needed.
- In situations where social distancing (2 metres/6 feet) cannot be maintained (eg. shearing) consider wearing personal protective equipment such as a face mask (as it would be unreasonable to expect your shearer to do so). Once the job is complete, promptly change outer layer of clothes and laundering is one recommended procedure to help mitigate risk of exposure.

If you (or anyone on the farm) are self-isolating, let your service providers know so they can re-schedule.

Stay healthy. Stay safe. Help flatten the curve