

COVID-19 Update for On-Farm Service Providers

March 26, 2020

For service providers that have chosen to continue offering services to Ontario sheep farmers during this pandemic, a reminder of some steps you can take to minimize the risks of COVID-19 to yourself and to your clients.

We ask that you:

- Cancel appointments if you have any symptoms of COVID-19, been in contact with someone who has COVID-19, or you've have travelled outside of Canada in the past 14 days
- Call ahead to do a risk assessment. Postpone shearing if yes is the answer to ANY of the following questions.
 - Ask whether anyone on the farm has been exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 (cough, fever, shortness of breath).
 - Ask whether anyone on the farm has travelled outside of Canada in the past 14 days.
 - Ask whether anyone on the farm is in one of the "higher risk" categories for complications from COVID-19 (65 years of age or older, compromised immune system, or with underlying health condition).
- Continue to be diligent on biosecurity measures you take on-farm, and between farms.
- Maintain social distancing (at least 2 metres/ 6 feet) while on-farm where possible.
 - Can you complete the required work on your own?
 - If help is needed, what steps can be taken to maintain social distancing?
 - Where social distancing cannot be maintained, what steps can you take to protect yourself and those working with you?
- Meals / breaks
 - Bring your own meals or arrange to have a packaged lunch set out for you.
 - Avoid going into the farmhouse.
 - Have a means to wash/sanitise your hands.
- Look after yourself
 - If the job can be postponed, consider doing so.
 - If you aren't already, consider keeping a daily log of everyone you are in contact with.

Resources for Shearers:

NZ Shearing Guidelines to Mitigate the Spread of Covid-19

https://www.nzshearing.co.nz/files/958_20200326121853-1585178333.pdf

Australian Shearing Protocols in Response to Covid-19 <https://www.sheepcentral.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Shearing-Operations-Protocols-in-response-to-COVID19-FINAL.pdf>

Health Canada COVID-19 webpage <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/coronavirus-disease-covid-19.html>

OSF recognizes that these steps will add extra time to your already busy schedule. They do, however, help to "flatten the curve" and ensure that our producers can continue supplying lamb to our processors and consumers.