



Control Order key messages update: summer 2020

July 23, 2020

Human health continues to be the highest priority for the Government of Yukon during the COVID-19 pandemic. In the face of the evolving COVID-19 pandemic situation, we want to ensure that we are providing sheep and goat owners in Yukon with the most up-to-date Control Order information.

Fencing

- If your containment is in progress, the Agriculture Branch will contact you soon to ask for an update/progress report as you work towards completion. You can find deadlines for completion in your funding agreement.
- Inspection to confirm compliance can be done through farm visits with physical distancing, or with photographs/video/mapping.
- Signage for inspected and approved fencing is required and can be provided to you by mail or no-contact drop off.

Testing

- Since Yukon health authorities established Phase 2 of reopening, we have started to visit farms for *M. ovi* sampling. Scheduling is done on a farm-by-farm basis and includes a COVID-19 risk questionnaire.

- Farm visits for *M. ovi* sampling activities currently include physical distancing as much as possible. Staff and farm personnel are wearing masks when they cannot remain at least two metres apart.
- Our testing protocol for each farm will depend on flock or herd management decisions and the *M. ovi* results from the previous year.
 - On farms with newly imported animals: testing of the animals will be as per the conditions of the import permit.
 - On farms with all negative *M. ovi* results last year: animals on farm will be tested once.



- On farms that had any *M. ovi* positive animals last year: the testing protocol will be developed via discussion between the owner and the Control Order veterinarian based on risk, and will include at least two tests per animal.
- As in the past, compensation will be available for animals ordered destroyed.

Import

- Permits are required to import sheep and goats into Yukon. You can get application forms from the Agriculture Branch.
- If you wish to bring sheep or goats into Yukon in 2020, please contact the Agriculture Branch or the Animal Health Unit as soon as possible to start discussing your plans.
- Consider the COVID-19 health risks associated with travel and respect any travel restrictions and self-isolation guidelines.

Record keeping

- Control Order requirements state that producers must keep a record for each sheep or goat they own. You can get templates for record keeping from the Animal Health Unit and the Agriculture Branch.

Respiratory Symptoms

- Under the *Animal Health Act*, respiratory illness of sheep and goats is a reportable clinical syndrome. If you have noticed symptoms of respiratory illness in your sheep or goats (coughing, difficulty breathing, increased nasal discharge or sneezing), please submit a Reportable Hazard Report form (the form can be found on Yukon.ca) to Yukon's Chief Veterinary Officer.

As always, we are available to discuss the Control Order requirements with you. Contact the Animal Health Unit or the Agriculture Branch if you have questions or concerns about the Control Order.

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