

Hello,

We would like to send you a few updates regarding COVID-19 and ask you to share this information in your networks. Please continue to consult the [AAFC website](#) regularly for updates.

1. Federal Quarantine, Isolation and Other Obligations – Extended to February 21, 2021

The COVID-19 federal Emergency Orders in Council (OIC) pursuant to section 58 of the *Quarantine Act* have been extended to February 21, 2021. The extended OICs will be uploaded at this [link](#) please scroll to the “Quarantine Act” section of the page).

2. Alberta COVID-19 Border Testing Pilot

Information about the Alberta COVID-19 Border Testing Pilot can be found [here](#). Participation in the Pilot has no impact on the pre-departure testing requirements that were introduced in early January 2021 (i.e., travellers still required to provide negative PCR test result to board a plane unless exempted under the *Quarantine Act* OIC). Generally, Temporary foreign workers would not be eligible for participation in the Pilot on the basis that their living arrangements would not be suitable (i.e., group or congregate living spaces are excluded).

3. Requirement for Proof of Negative COVID-19 Test or Recovery from COVID-19 for All Air Passengers Arriving in the United States

On January 12, 2021, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention issued an [Order](#) requiring [all air passengers arriving to the United States from a foreign country to get tested](#) no more than 3 days before their flight departs and to present the negative result or documentation of having recovered from COVID-19 to the airline before boarding the flight. Requirements of this Order only apply to air travel into the United States.

A verifiable test result must be in the form of written documentation (paper or electronic copy) of a laboratory test result. Testing must be performed using a viral test (NAAT or antigen), and negative results must be presented to the airline prior to boarding. The test result documentation must include information that identifies the person, a specimen collection date and the type of test. A negative test result must show test was done within the 3 days before the flight.

People who have recovered from COVID-19 can continue to test positive for up to 3 months after their infection. CDC does not recommend getting tested again in the 3 months after a positive viral test, as long as you do not have symptoms of COVID-19. If you have had a positive viral test in the past 3 months, and you have met the criteria to end isolation, you may travel instead with documentation of your positive viral test results and a letter from your healthcare provider or a public health official that states you have been cleared for travel.

4. Canada’s COVID-19 vaccine campaign

The Government of Canada has prepared a toolkit of materials on COVID-19 vaccines to share within your sectors in an effort to strengthen participation in Canada’s vaccination program. The toolkit is available [here](#), and will be updated and revised regularly.

Your support and assistance in sharing timely and credible information about COVID-19 vaccines is truly appreciated.

5. Joint Statement from the 2021 Federal-Provincial-Territorial Agriculture Ministerial Co-Chairs on Proposed Changes to the AgriStability Program

A link to the statement made by the Honourable Marie-Claude Bibeau, federal Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food and the Honourable Ernie Hardeman, Ontario Minister of Agriculture,

Food and Rural Affairs (the 2021 Federal-Provincial-Territorial Agriculture Ministerial Co-Chairs) on proposed changes to the AgriStability Program can be found [here](#).

6. Update on the United States Investigations on Seasonal Products

As discussed on the January 21st COVID 19 stakeholder conference call, attached please find a document that summarises the US International Trade Commission (USITC) investigations on blueberries, bell peppers and strawberries and cucumbers and squash.

7. Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Supplementary Mandate Letter

On January 15, 2021, Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau presented to Marie-Claude Bibeau, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food a [Supplementary Mandate Letter](#).

The supplementary letter includes seven commitments (which are to be executed in collaboration with various other Ministers and Departments) that are to be undertaken on a priority basis in addition to those that were issued in the 2019 mandate letter. These new commitments include:

- Work to address food insecurity, including through co-developed programs
- Efforts to strengthen local, sustainable and value-added food supply chains in Canada
- Support and protect workers who are vulnerable to COVID-19 and secure labour to fill workforce gaps in farming and food processing
- Conclude work to ensure full and fair compensation for supply-managed sectors
- Support the efforts of farmers and ranchers to reduce emissions and build resilience as key partners in the fight against climate change
- Operationalize plans to use nature-based solutions to fight climate change and stop biodiversity loss, including by planting two billion trees
- Work with partners to identify opportunities to build more resilient water and irrigation infrastructure and support the creation of a new Canada Water Agency

8. CFIA: Share your thoughts by March 19, 2021!

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) is gathering insights and ideas on opportunities to further enable innovation, growth and competitiveness.

Your input will help the CFIA maximize sector competitive and innovative opportunities and support inclusive economic growth, while maintaining high standards to safeguard Canada's food, plants, and animals.

Visit CFIA's consultation webpage: [Framing Competitiveness and Innovation for Success](#) before **March 19, 2021 to participate**. Please forward this message to anyone who may be interested in participating.

Reminder: Next AAFC COVID-19 stakeholder calls will be held Wednesday February 3rd at noon.

We encourage you strongly to share your comments and questions in writing through the AAFC Roundtable account (aafc.roundtable-table ronde.aac@canada.ca).

Industry Engagement Division

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