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## COVID-19 and the Livestock Care Conference

The Livestock Care Conference (LCC) is days away and we are excited to bring all of you together for our annual conference, where Alberta's livestock industry meets to share, learn and collaborate on ways to "Raise the Bar" for the industry. However, we are also closely following the COVID-19 situation and are aware that there may be concerns among some of our guests about taking part in LCC 2020.

The latest update from AHS was Thursday afternoon and included specific direction regarding large gatherings of over 250 people in Alberta. Based on AHS recommendations and our work with the venue, we remain confident that we can host a safe and worthwhile event.

- We have approximately 120 guests coming from within Canada; no guests or speakers are attending from outside the country
- The Pomeroy Inn and Suites is following AHS and WHO guidelines on increased cleaning protocols at the venue, and have increased sanitizer stations throughout the public areas of the hotel.
- The meeting rooms will be reconfigured to allow appropriate social distancing in all sessions
- Extra precautions have been taken related to food service delivery

We hope to see you at the LCC next week and ask you help us maintain the health and well-being of everyone in the room by following [AHS protocols](#):

- If you have been on a Grand Princess Cruise or visited Iran, Italy or China's Hubei province in the last 14 days, you should self-isolate until two weeks have passed since that visit, even if you are feeling well. (Note that this list could change, so please consult the website frequently if you are planning to travel or have travelled recently.)
- You should self-isolate and call [Health Link 811](#) for additional precautions and follow-up testing if you have travelled to anywhere outside of Canada **and** experienced any of the following:
  - contact with someone who was suspected or confirmed to have the novel coronavirus
  - were in a health-care facility
  - have symptoms, such as cough or fever
- Travellers returning from other countries outside Canada should monitor for symptoms for 14 days.

**AFAC is asking any guests that have arrived in Canada within the last 14 days, or have had contact with anyone who has recently arrived in Canada, to contact us to discuss alternatives to attending the conference in person.**



Alberta's Chief Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Deena Hinshaw, stated all of us need to be engaged in responding to this concern and we need to protect each other. This can be accomplished through common sense actions, such as by covering coughs and sneezes, washing hands regularly, and **most importantly**, staying home and away from others when we are sick. "It is time to start greeting each other with elbow bumps or waves instead of handshakes. This is not an over-reaction, but rather a very practical way of limiting the spread of germs."

As above, we are working with the hotel to ensure the meeting spaces will be safe and healthy- we ask you to take the "ounce of prevention" practices listed above including increased handwashing and eliminating handshakes when greeting our colleagues.

If you find yourself meeting any of the above criteria, or if you are feeling sick, you should stay at home, contact Alberta Health Services' [Health Link at 811](#), and contact Kristen Hall at [kristen@afac.ab.ca](mailto:kristen@afac.ab.ca) to discuss alternate arrangements.

Alberta Farm Animal Care continues to actively monitor the emergence of COVID-19, and to take direction from Alberta Health Services. With only a few days to go until our conference kicks off, we take comfort in the latest statement from AHS: "While the worldwide risk is rising, the risk of contracting COVID-19 in Alberta is still low."

Please let either me or Kristen Hall know if you have any concerns. I can be reached at [annemarie@afac.ab.ca](mailto:annemarie@afac.ab.ca) or 403-652-5111.

I hope to see you all in Olds for an engaging (and healthy) Livestock Care Conference 2020.

For more information contact:  
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