

GUIDELINES FOR FARM MILK COLLECTION

Version 2, 1 April 2020

This information is collated with the support of Dairy Australia, Milk Processors and Transport Companies and is consistent with relevant, recommended risk management protocols and public health advice to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all in milk collection and delivery. While navigating the COVID-19 outbreak, the safety of all working across the dairy supply chain, under changing circumstances, is of paramount importance.

The following points have been revised due to decreasing availability of some resources, but with the resolve of not compromising the retention of sound sanitation and hygiene practices from farm to factory.

1. GENERAL PROCEDURES assuming reliable long-term supply of disposable gloves

TANKER OPERATORS

- Use disposable gloves when you arrive at each farm and dispose of them on leaving farm. Farmers are to provide an open top bin for discarded gloves.
- Ensure antibacterial spray or wipes are in each truck, at farm pickup point and at tanker bay.
- Wipe down all hand contact surfaces and touch points prior to leaving each farm and at the end of your work shift:
 - On Farm – Door handles, vat, manual valves, milk vat and CIP control panels, etc— wherever hands contact surfaces, eg milk silo ladder handrails, not steps
 - On Tanker - Steering wheel, controls, esky handles, all touch points
 - At Factory – Connections, hoses, valves, pump and CIP control panels, etc

FARMERS

- Completely avoid congregating.
- Maintain a distance from others of no less than 1.5 metres.
- Sanitise vat room door handles, vat hardware, taps, hoses and wash control equipment used at the end of each milking.
- The entire farm team should stay isolated from the tanker operator— be absent from the milking shed/dairy when tanker pick-up is occurring.
- Farmers are to provide an open top bin for discarded gloves and wipes.

2. GENERAL PROCEDURES adjusted due to the impending short supply of disposable gloves and wipes

TANKER OPERATORS

- Use hand sanitiser when you arrive on farm and at the end of the pick-up process.
- Ensure antibacterial spray or wipes are in each truck, at farm pickup point and at tanker bay.
- Spray/wipe all hand contact surfaces and touch points prior to leaving each farm and at the end of your work shift.
 - On Farm – Door handles, vat, manual valves, milk vat and CIP control panels, etc – wherever hands contact surfaces, eg milk silo ladder handrails, not steps
 - On Tanker - Steering wheel, controls, esky handles, all touch points
 - At Factory – Connections, hoses, valves, pump and CIP control panels, etc

FARMERS

- Completely avoid congregating.
- Maintain a distance from others of no less than 1.5 metres.
- Sanitise vat room door handles, vat hardware, taps, hoses and wash control equipment used at the end of each milking
- The entire farm team should stay isolated from the Tanker Operator– be absent from the milking shed/dairy when the tanker pickup is occurring

Note: Some farmers may provide milking gloves and/or hand sanitiser, and request Tanker Operators to use them as part of their On-Farm Standard Operating Procedures – open top bin should be provided for disposal

3. PROCEDURES if farm has declared they may be at higher risk of COVID-19 transmission

Higher risk includes:

- **Any member of the farm team recently returned from overseas,**
- **Any member of the farm team self-isolating if feeling unwell or with cold and flu symptoms,**
- **Any member of the farm team self-isolating while awaiting a COVID-19 test result,**
- **Any member of the farm team who has tested positive to COVID-19.**

TANKER OPERATORS

- Use disposable gloves when you arrive at each farm and dispose of them on leaving farm. Farmers are to provide an open top bin for discarded gloves.
- Ensure antibacterial spray or wipes are in each truck, at farm pickup point and at tanker bay.
- Spray/wipe all hand contact surfaces and touch points prior to leaving each farm and at the end of your work shift.
 - On Farm – Door handles, vat, manual valves, milk vat and CIP control panels, etc– wherever hands contact surfaces, eg milk silo ladder handrails, not steps
 - On Tanker - Steering wheel, controls, esky handles, all touch points
 - At Factory – Connections, hoses, valves, pump and CIP control panels, etc

FARMERS

- **Alert milk collection through emergency phone number if in high risk**
- Completely avoid congregating.
- Maintain a distance from others of no less than 1.5 metres.
- Sanitise vat room door handles, vat hardware, taps, hoses and wash control equipment used at the end of each milking.
- The entire farm team should stay isolated from the tanker operator.
- Be absent from the milking shed/dairy when tanker pick-up is occurring.
- Farmers are to provide an open top bin for discarded gloves and wipes.