

Bovine Tuberculosis Investigation – October 2018



Information for Veterinarians

Animal Movement

1. How will this affect the movement of livestock?

Routine movement of livestock will not be impacted for herds that are not involved in a quarantine or trace investigation. A trace investigation looks for the source of infection and potential spread into herds that are adjacent to, have sold to, or purchased from the affected herd.

However, this is a good time for livestock owners to review all their biosecurity practices and make adjustments to ensure the protection of animal and human health.

2. Will other states change their requirements for animal movement?

Livestock owners and veterinarians should continue to check with the state of destination for requirements prior to moving animals out of Wisconsin (exporting). Information for animal movement to different states is available at <https://www.interstatelivestock.com/>. Each state determines its own requirements for receiving animals and these may change, so you should check prior to each export.

3. Are there any changes for moving animals within Wisconsin (intrastate)?

Regulations for movement of animals within Wisconsin have not changed.

4. If an individual brings in animals from out of state, do we need to let you know?

State regulations for importing animals into Wisconsin have not changed. Information about import requirements are available at https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/Programs_Services/AnimalMovement.aspx.

5. If an individual purchased animals from a TB-affected herd, will they be contacted?

If a sales record indicates an animal was purchased from the TB-affected herd, the purchaser may be contacted, depending on when the purchase occurred. State animal health officials are in the process of gathering records from animal sales. If an individual purchased animals from a known TB-affected herd, they can report this to their [district veterinarian](#).

Quarantine

6. What does quarantine mean?

A quarantine identifies movement restrictions for animals or products. Requirements vary by case and details are part of the quarantine notice.

7. Is Dane County under a quarantine?

No.

8. How do you issue a notice of quarantine?

The Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protections (DATCP) issues quarantines directly to the herd owner.

9. If a farm is located near a TB-affected farm, will the farm automatically be quarantined?

DATCP is focusing the epidemiological investigation on farms with close contact with the infected herd, and cattle purchased from the herd that are not going to slaughter. Currently, DATCP is not looking at area surveillance.

Testing

10. How do I test my cattle for TB?

In cattle, the standard method for detection of bovine TB in live animals is the tuberculin skin test, performed by a licensed, accredited, and TB-

certified veterinarian. Secondary testing is conducted by regulatory veterinarians on animals that respond to initial skin tests. Animals that test positive on secondary testing require further testing and may need to be slaughtered to determine if they are infected.

Additional testing criteria may be applied to herd testing during a bovine TB investigation. For the affected Dane County herd, all animals that tested positive on the initial skin test will be euthanized or slaughtered.

TB-free Status

11. How does a confirmed positive TB case affect Wisconsin's state status?

At this time there is no change for Wisconsin's TB-free status. DATCP is working with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to ensure a quick and thorough investigation so that there continues to be no impact on our state status.

Animal and Public Health

12. My company provides services for farms. How can we protect ourselves when going to a farm?

Guidance for how to protect yourself when visiting a farm that may have bovine TB is available at <https://datcp.wi.gov/Documents/TBGuidanceForServiceProviders.pdf>.

13. Should individuals who worked with animals from a TB-affected farm be tested?

Contact your physician or county health department, who will determine if you need testing.

14. If an individual is concerned about TB exposure in their herd, who should they contact?

State regulations for reporting suspected diseases has not changed. TB is a disease that requires a veterinarian to report it to the state within one day. Once a disease is reported, an investigation will evaluate any health impact to the animals. More information about disease reporting requirements are available at https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/Programs_Services/DiseaseReportingRequirements.aspx.

15. What can individuals do to prevent bovine TB in their herd?

Following these best practices will help keep bovine TB out of your herd:

- Have your livestock tested for TB and, if possible, keep a closed herd and raise your own replacement stock.
- Buy your animals from an accredited TB-free herd, test the new animals prior to purchase, and finally, isolate them for 60 days and retest before commingling them with your herd.
- Restrict or eliminate all contact between your herd and other herds.
- Clean with a disinfectant any trailers or facilities that have housed newly purchased animals or animals that did not originate from your herd.
- Keep on-farm visitors away from your herd whenever possible. This includes milk haulers, feed delivery personnel, and anyone who may have contact with other herds.
- Make sure your fences are in good condition to separate your herd from wildlife.
- Consider screening and testing employees for TB. More information about bovine TB in animals and humans is available at <https://datcp.wi.gov/Documents/BovineTB.pdf>.

More information about [how to prevent bovine TB](#) is available from USDA.

Resources

16. Where can I get more information?

Updates and resources for the investigation are available on DATCP's [website](#). This includes the following fact sheets you may find useful to handout to individuals:

- Frequently asked questions: [English](#) | [Spanish](#)
- [Preventing bovine TB](#) (USDA)
- Bovine TB in animals and humans: [English](#) | [Spanish](#)
- [Bovine TB in humans](#) (Centers for Disease Control)



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