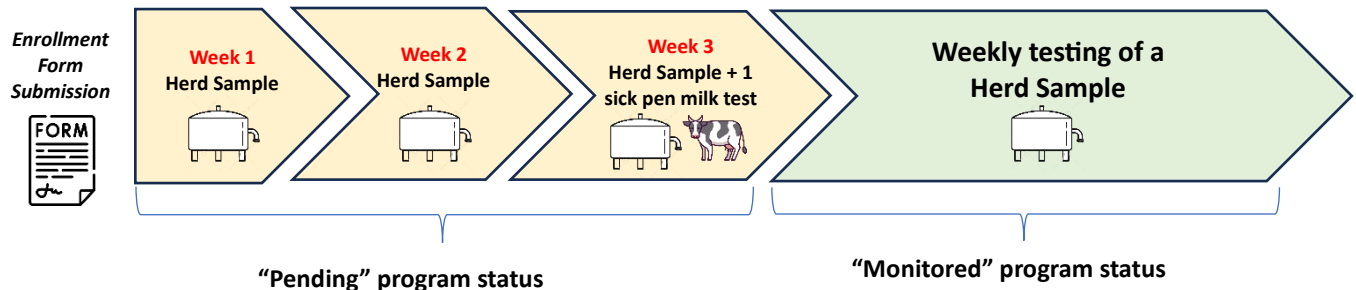


# Lactating Dairy Cow Health Monitoring Program

## *Guide for Category II Accredited Veterinarians*

The Lactating Dairy Cow Health Monitoring Program is a critical surveillance program designed to protect the Pennsylvania dairy industry, and by extension the Pennsylvania poultry industry, from Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza. All veterinarians with Category II Accreditation under the National Veterinary Accreditation Program are approved sample collectors for this program. Category II Accredited Veterinarians may designate farm personnel at premises where they have a valid Veterinary Client Patient Relationship (VCPR) to submit samples under their guidance.

### **Program timeline:**



### **Herd Sampling (Bulk Tank or In-line Sampler)**

Enrolled dairy herds must submit weekly representative herd milk samples, either from the herd's bulk tank(s) or an in-line sampler. Veterinarians should obtain permission from the premises prior to collecting a bulk tank sample.

- One representative herd milk sample (bulk tank or in-line sample) is collected for each bulk tank emptying over a 24-hour period, or a single collection cycle—whichever is longer. More than one herd sample may be needed if there are multiple bulk tanks.
- Required sample volume: 10-12 mL in a sterile tube. Snap top tubes should not be used as these leak during transit. Screw-top tubes are preferred. Label with a provided Premise ID sticker and write the sample identity (e.g., "Bulk Tank 1")
- The bulk tank must be agitated for at least 10 minutes prior to sample collection.
- Use a sterile device to obtain milk from the bulk tank. An image of a simple sample collection device which can be made at most veterinary clinics is included. The device is a 50 mL conical tube with a string attached that is autoclaved.
- Always collect the sample from the top of the bulk tank and never from the outlet as milk collected from the outlet may be contaminated.



*Bulk tank sample collection device*

### **Sick pen/ Hospital Pen Sampling**

In the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of testing, a sample representing the sick/hospital pen must be submitted prior to obtaining “Monitored” status. Options for sampling of animals in the sick or hospital pens include:

- A bulk tank sample collected that represents all quarters of at least five lactating animals in the sick or hospital pen on the day of collection, or
- Individual milk samples representing all quarters collected from five lactating animals held in the sick or hospital pen on the day of collection. If there are less than 5 animals in the sick pen, all animals should be sampled.

### **Sample labeling and Submission**

Use the PADLS General Submission Form (<http://padls.agriculture.pa.gov/index.html>) for submitting milk samples for Program testing. Pre-filled submission forms will be provided to herds at enrollment. Ensure that the following information is correct:

- **Bill To:** Mark *Other* and write in ‘**Program Testing**’.
- **Purpose of Testing:** Mark *Other* and write in ‘**HPAI BTM Monitoring**’
- **Veterinarian/Submitter:** Samples must have a veterinarian listed to qualify for program testing
- **Owner:** Please apply a Premises ID barcode label provided by the lab or write in all information including your Premises ID, name, address and contact information.
- **Animal Information:** Mark “Bovine”
- **Test(s) Requested:** Write “**Influenza A – PCR**”
- **Animal Identification:** Write the identify your sample(s). This must match the sample label(s). For individual milk samples, this must include official animal identification.
- **Specimen Information:**
  - **Collection date:** Write in the date that your specimen was collected.
  - **Specimen Type:** Mark ‘Milk’ and circle the type (Bulk tank or composite).

### **Delivery to a PADLS Lab:**

- Samples may be delivered to any PADLS site or shipped overnight on ice. Pre-paid shipping labels can be provided upon enrollment.
- Additional shipping labeling and shipping instructions can be found at [padls.agriculture.pa.gov/InnerPages/Shipping.html](http://padls.agriculture.pa.gov/InnerPages/Shipping.html)
- Submission form should be in a sealed plastic bag inside the box.
- Additional supplies (Premise ID labels, submission forms, and conical tubes) can be obtained through a request to any laboratory.

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Diagnostic Laboratory**  
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University Park, PA 16802  
Phone: (814) 863-0837  
Fax: (814) 865-3907  
[adlhelp@psu.edu](mailto:adlhelp@psu.edu)

**Pennsylvania Veterinary  
Laboratory**  
2305 North Cameron Street  
Harrisburg, PA, 17110  
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Fax: (717) 772-3895  
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382 West Street Road  
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