



## UCVM Veterinary Outbreak Investigation Service FAQs

### What is VOIS?

- VOIS stands for Veterinary Outbreak Investigation Service.
- A service offered by the University of Calgary's Faculty of Veterinary Medicine (UCVM) to provide the expertise of specialists at UCMV to outbreak investigations within Alberta.
- VOIS always works with the primary referring veterinarian on the outbreak.

### What is an outbreak investigation?

- An investigation of an animal health event causing increased morbidity (illness), mortality (deaths), or decreased production in a group of animals.

### Who can use this service?

- VOIS is available for investigating outbreaks in animals throughout Alberta. VOIS will investigate events causing increased morbidity or mortality or decreased performance.
- Any species of animal is eligible for the service.
- VOIS always works with the referring veterinarian on all investigations.
- Outbreaks suspected or confirmed to be caused by a reportable disease will have the investigation transferred to the appropriate government organization.

### How do I access this service?

- VOIS will accept requests from veterinarians licensed in Alberta and government agencies.
- Requests from animal owners, producers, and the public will not be accepted, however anyone concerned about an outbreak should contact their veterinarian who can then submit a request to VOIS.
- Request forms are available at <https://vet.ucalgary.ca/departments-units/dsu/submissions> or by using the QR code below.
- Approval of requests is done on a case-by-case basis.

### What fees are associated with an outbreak investigation?

- A standard nominal investigation fee is applied to all outbreak investigations to help cover costs incurred by UCMV such as for travel to the outbreak location.
- Fees for diagnostic testing and the investigation fee for the outbreak will be charged to the veterinary clinic. The veterinary clinic is responsible for billing this back to their client.
- Until 2024, financial support is available for investigations involving livestock species through the Enhanced Livestock Diagnostics Grant (a pilot project with funding provided by Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP) and administered by RDAR (Results Driven Agriculture Research)).
- Financial support for all other species may be available on a case-by-case basis.

### What are the benefits to VOIS?

- VOIS provides access to a team of specialists at UCMV for outbreaks in any animal species.
- Knowing the cause of an outbreak informs treatment and management practices.
- Improved health and welfare of animals, surveillance of emerging or foreign animal diseases, protection of public health, and food safety.

