



Coronavirus – the importance of hygiene on dairy farms

Coronavirus is currently on everybody's mind and, while it is very much business as usual as far as farming is concerned, it is important that all members continue to recognise the critical importance of strict biosecurity measures.

As has always been the case in dairying, hygiene within the dairy parlour is the lynchpin of milk production from the cow to the point the milk leaves the farm.

In this current climate, it is critical you ensure that anyone who must visit your farm is able to reduce the risk of transmission of Covid-19. As such we have a reminder of the standard, MP.d which covers hygiene.

- You must provide a dedicated hand wash facility and means for drying of the hands.
- This facility must be accessible to the tanker driver (who have already been issued guidance on ensure good hygiene practices, which includes the washing of hands on entry and on leaving farms).
- You must provide hot and cold water, or a mixer tap, unscented soap along with paper towels or a hand drier.
- If paper towels are being offered, then a bin complete with a secure lid must be available for disposal of the used paper towels.

As you will appreciate compliance with this standard not only helps with general hygiene but also will also reducing the risks of Covid-19 spread both within and across the supply chain.

For farmers, another big question is, what you should do if a member of staff suspects they might have the Covid-19 virus, or if staff are confirmed to be already infected. Please familiarise yourself with the current advice from Government, which can be found [here](#).

19th March 2020