

COVID-Safe Support for the Red Meat Industry – Part B.

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Project Description

Respond Global are well placed to assist MC Herd Pty Ltd in ensuring that their operations are COVID-Safe combined with a pressure test to assess the effectiveness of protocols, systems and processes. Respond Global were also available to support M C Herd should they experience a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19 at their production or agri-business facilities.

This project focused on providing MC Herd Pty Ltd with the following:

1. Detailed review and site assessment.
2. Redesign and further develop plans and protocols as relevant to the M C Herd business including delivering an updated risk management strategy, traffic light response system for the facility with action cards, operational controls developed for the facility, assistance to implement the risk management strategy, development of a specific handbook for staff that will also be made available to Victorian Public Health.
3. In House training specifically designed for M C Herd including simulation and pressure tests.
4. Two Webinars with Q&A for senior managers and supervisors.
5. Support, access and training for the AMPC core deliverables of an LMS, Infographics and Videos (should they become available).
6. Ongoing Public Health Training as well as training and management support via the respond Global COVID-safe Client Portal for 12 months.

This PIP will deliver fit-for-purpose deliverables that will assist M C Herd in being COVID safe. It is envisaged that this PIP will be adopted by a number of other processors across Australia, as each solution needs to be practically tailored to the individual site.

Learning from this project will also help deliver wider support to the Red Meat Industry with a number of core projects being worked up in the Core program area.

Project Content

- Detailed review and site assessment.
- Redesign and further develop plans and protocols as relevant to the Herds business.
- Inhouse training specifically designed for Herds including simulation and pressure tests.
- Two Webinars with Q&A for senior managers and supervisors.
- Support, access and training for the AMPC core deliverables of an LMS, Infographics and Videos (should they become available).
- Ongoing Public Health Training as well as training and management support via the respond Global COVID-safe Client Portal (12 months).

Project Outcome

The team at Respond Global have worked closely with key management at M C Herd to refine our COVID-19 response and have helped develop and formalise M C Herd's 'Safety Alert System Overview' and 'Safe Operational Control Measures' documents. This has been done through a series of weekly conference calls to discuss issues, pain points, solutions and general updates. The process culminated in a pressure test on 17th of March which was attended by Respond Global and DHHS Victoria. The pressure test was facilitated by Respond Global and attended by key management personnel of M C Herd who presented to DHHS Victoria. This pressure test was designed to simulate a positive case / outbreak and demonstrate M C Herd's ability to manage it. M C Herd was also given the opportunity to show the processes and controls it has in place to prevent a case / outbreak on site. Respond Global then provided a report summarizing the outcomes of the day.

Benefit for Industry

Respond Global's feedback has been extremely useful in shaping M C Herd's formal Covid response and action plan documents. Their assistance with liaising with DHHS during the pressure test and giving M C Herd the opportunity to demonstrate our competence in managing a potential outbreak was extremely beneficial. Management has taken on all feedback and formalised documents accordingly.

M C Herd would highly recommend Respond Global to other businesses not only in the red meat industry but also the wider community who face similar risks due to being considered a high-risk environment. What has been evident during the pandemic is the volume of information available which can be difficult to consume, decipher and action due to mixed messaging and different opinions. Respond Global's team of health experts helped to provide an independent and focused approach to actioning relevant information and allowing M C Herd to stay in front of the virus rather than being reactive to the threat.