

Follow Influenza Biosecurity Recommendations

As a reminder to take appropriate biosecurity precautions related to influenza, the National Pork Board is urging pork producers and veterinarians to:

- Step up on-farm biosecurity practices to prevent the influenza virus from entering their herd.
- Remain vigilant, carefully monitoring the health of your pigs.
- Be prepared to take steps to minimize the spread of the influenza virus if it enters your operation.

Your biosecurity practices should place special emphasis on protecting your animals from humans potentially carrying the virus. Consider the following:

Limit the number of people you allow into your pork operation.

- Prevent visitors from entering your facilities. Limit entry into your facility to workers and essential service personnel.

Develop and implement an enhanced biosecurity protocol for workers, service personnel and all other people and equipment entering your facility.

- Do not allow people exhibiting flu-like symptoms to enter your facility. Ask them to report recent contact with others who have signs of illness.
- If people who have developed illness, or those that report contact with others who have developed illness, are essential to the operation and must enter the facilities, require their use of properly fitted, valveless N95 respirators, gloves and other personal protective equipment while on the farm and limit their contact with the animals.
- Implement a shower-in, shower-out policy where possible for all people entering the facility. If not possible, require that all people entering the facility wash their hands and arms with warm water and soap before entering the facility.
- Require the use of farm-specific clothing and footwear for all people entering the facility.
- Encourage all people to wash their hands and arms frequently while on-farm, including before and after handling pigs, before eating, or smoking or touching their faces, mouths, eyes or noses.
- Encourage all people to use hand sanitizer following hand-washing.

Establish, implement and enforce strict sick leave policies for workers who have developed influenza-like symptoms, such as a fever, cough, body aches and sometimes vomiting and diarrhea.

- Prevent workers exhibiting these symptoms from entering swine facilities for at least seven days after they begin signs of respiratory illness, even mild ones.
- Recommend that workers with respiratory illness seek medical care.
- Workers diagnosed with influenza should be restricted from entering swine facilities for at least seven days after the start of their illness, or until symptom free for 24 hours.
- Encourage workers to report if members of their household have developed influenza-like symptoms or have been diagnosed with influenza. Consider restricting their contact with the animals for seven days.

Follow industry-accepted biosecurity practices, including:

- Require basic hygiene practices.

- Properly adjust and maintain ventilation. Ventilation systems in production facilities should be designed to minimize re-circulation of air inside animal housing facilities. This is important to reduce the exposure of pigs to viruses from other pigs and to reduce their exposure to human influenza viruses.
- Provide workers with personal protective equipment and training. Provide basic personal protective equipment to the people working in barns. For information, go to <http://www.pork.org/workersafety/>.
- Recommend that all workers be vaccinated against the seasonal influenza virus to help prevent human infections from seasonal human influenza strains.
- Review herd health programs with your veterinarian to ensure they are up to date and effective for conditions on your farm.

Remain vigilant, carefully monitoring the health of pigs.

Perform daily observations of all of the animals in your care to assess the health of the animals on the farm and all of the animals transported to other sites or to market.

If you suspect influenza in pigs, contact a swine veterinarian immediately.

- Rapid detection of the illness may help reduce the spread of the virus to other swine herds.
- Prompt confirmation of a pig infection with influenza virus diagnosis on a farm will likely require that specimens (nasal swabs) or tissue samples be sent to a veterinary diagnostic laboratory. This should be done by a veterinarian or under direction of a veterinarian.

If you contact a veterinarian to report a suspected outbreak on your farm:

- Describe the flu-like symptoms you have observed in the pigs.
- Describe the number and age/weight of the pigs affected.
- Inform the veterinarian if the affected animals have received or are receiving any type of animal health product or treatment.
- Report if anybody who has had contact with the affected animals has developed flu-like symptoms.

If tissue samples are required:

- Require that all people conducting the collection use appropriate personal protective equipment, including a properly fitted N95 respirator (shown on the left), gloves and safety goggles.

Be prepared if influenza is confirmed in your operation.

Additional recommendations to consider if animals on your farm are confirmed positive for influenza virus:

Worker health and safety:

- Require use of safety goggles, gloves and properly fitted N95 respirators by all persons working with animals that have signs of illness.

Swine health:

- Follow your herd veterinarian's recommendations of treatment and isolation of the clinically affected or at-risk animals.

- Isolate affected groups as possible and do not share equipment between affected groups and other animals.
- Implement a program so workers caring for animals developing illness do not have contact with other animals. If not possible, have workers caring for sick animals work with the ill animals at the end of the day and have them shower and change clothing before working with animals that do not have signs of illness.
- Your veterinarian will work with state animal health authorities to ensure that animals have recovered before being sent to market.
- Take steps to prevent the spread of the virus to other operations or unaffected groups of pigs.

Animal well-being:

- Consider your options before not moving the affected groups/lots results in high animal density in your facilities and impacts animal well-being in your system. Is there the possibility to move animals to an empty facility in the vicinity? If so, consult with your veterinarian and state animal health authorities first.
- Consult with your veterinarian and state animal health officials for permission to move affected animals for animal well-being reasons before clinical signs have resolved.

Public health:

- Contact your medical care provider if anybody who's had contact with ill pigs or in their households develops flu-like symptoms.