



STATE OF WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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TO: Washington Swine Producers

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Because of recent world wide news on the recent H1N1 influenza outbreak, we at WSDA felt it would be important to offer some guidelines and provide sources of information to protect your livestock investment and also provide links for information to help safeguard your own personal health.

The National Pork Board issued a news release urging pork producers to enhance the biosecurity plans on their farms as the result of a new strain of the influenza virus type H1N1 being reported by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The virus is unique and has not been seen in the U.S. swine herd.

At this time, no swine have been found to be infected or sick with the virus. It is unknown if this new strain causes any type of illness in swine. However, because it is novel, the National Pork Board is urging producers to take extra precaution to protect the industry's workers and their animals.

To prevent the introduction of the new strain of influenza virus type H1N1 into your operation and because people have been reported sick with this virus, make sure your biosecurity practices place special emphasis on protecting your animals and the people having access to your operation.

For now, we should all remember the common sense public health messages that help us prevent communicable disease between people also applies to disease transmission between people and livestock.

Producers, family members, or other farm contacts that present influenza-like symptoms, such as fever, cough, body aches, and sometimes vomiting and diarrhea, should seek medical attention and not enter swine facilities for at least seven days after presenting symptoms of respiratory illness, even mild ones. If entry is essential, consider requiring the use face masks, or preferably N95 respirators, and gloves, upon entering a swine housing facility.

If you, your family members, or any other people who visit your farm and have traveled internationally, increase caution should be considered to limit access to your animals such as establishing a visitor log for anyone entering your livestock's facility. Include questions about travel and health on your log.

Limit the entry of people into your facility to essential people only. Enforce the use of separate facility shoes and clothing, changing prior to entering and leaving. Wash your hands before contact with swine and continue to frequently wash hands while in the facility.

Other sound generally accepted biosecurity practices a swine producer can follow are to pay attention to 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.

Vaccinate your swine against the influenza virus. Vaccination can reduce the levels of virus shed by infected animals. If you or others observe any respiratory illness symptom in swine, contact your veterinarian immediately, especially if the onset or presentation of this illness is unusual. This is good general health advice, but since this virus is an unknown entity we do not know at this time if the vaccines available will cross protect, so do not rely solely on vaccination to prevent disease.

There has been no evidence that swine have been infected with this virus. Influenza viruses are extremely unpredictable and variable. Because of the speed in which this event is progressing, you will find, at times, inconsistent information. We will update our website <http://agr.wa.gov/FoodAnimal/AnimalHealth/default.htm> daily to bring you consistent information as changes occur. Veterinarians who diagnose or see swine with respiratory illness should contact the State Veterinarian's Office at (360) 902-1878.