



## Protect Your Exhibition Pigs from (H1N1) 2009 and Other Human Influenza Viruses

### What is (H1N1) 2009 Influenza virus?

(H1N1) influenza virus (initially called “swine flu”) is a novel or new influenza (flu) virus causing illness in people. This new virus was first detected in people in the United States in April 2009. Other countries around the world have reported people sick with this new virus. This virus is spreading from person-to-person, probably in much the same way that regular seasonal influenza viruses spread.

### Why the (H1N1) virus is sometimes called “swine flu”?

This virus was originally referred to as “swine flu” because laboratory testing showed that many of the genes in this new virus were very similar to influenza viruses that normally occur in pigs. Further studies have shown that this new virus is very different from what normally circulates in North American pigs.

### How are flu viruses spread to pigs?

Pigs can get flu viruses from contact with several species of animals that are carrying a flu virus, in particular from infected pigs. Although much less common, pigs can get flu from infected people. The spread occurs mostly through coughing or sneezing, and sometimes through contact with surfaces contaminated by flu viruses.

### What are the signs of flu in pigs?

Signs of flu in pigs include sudden onset of fever, depression, poor appetite, coughing, discharge from the nose or eyes, eye redness or inflammation, sneezing, and breathing difficulties. If a pig is showing a combination of these, you should call your veterinarian, isolate the sick pig and do not allow sick pigs to move off your property.

### How do I protect my pigs from the flu?

To prevent the introduction of flu viruses into your pigs, ensure that all disease control measures are followed and practice good personal hygiene.

Examples of basic disease control measures include:

- Keep facilities clean (sanitation).
- Provide appropriate housing and feed.
- Minimize stress on your pig.
- Consult with your herd veterinarian to determine the length of isolation, retest and exposure protocols before entry of new pigs into the herd.
- Do not share equipment between swine facilities unless it is cleaned and disinfected before use.
- Provide hand washing stations or hand sanitizers at swine exhibitions. Encourage the fair to provide these for all livestock areas.
- Wash or sanitize hands frequently before and after handling pigs.
- Prevent contact between people with influenza like illness and pigs.

### Your veterinarian is an excellent source of information on swine diseases

#### For more information contact:

#### California Department of Food and Agriculture

[www.cdfa.ca.gov](http://www.cdfa.ca.gov)

#### Animal Health Branch

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#### United States

#### Department of Agriculture

[www.usda.gov](http://www.usda.gov)

#### Veterinary Services

10365 Old Placerville Road, Suite 210  
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#### California Department of Public Health

Flu hotline: 1-888-865-0564

Human Health Questions