



Management of Swine at Exhibitions, Sales, and On-Farm Biosecurity Recommendations

Recommendations have been developed by a national working group including various stakeholder audiences, the Federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and purebred and commercial producers. Working with industry representatives and the Department of Health, we have modified the recommendations to better fit California's industry needs. The California swine industry is primarily represented by show swine and commercial swine stakeholders.

Swine influenza viruses do not normally infect humans. However, according to the CDC, sporadic human infections with swine influenza have occurred. When this happens, these viruses are called "variant viruses" and can be denoted by adding the letter "v" to the end of the virus subtype designation. Human infections with H1N1v, H3N2v, and H1N2v viruses have been detected in the United States (U.S.).

The purpose of these recommendations is to reduce the risk of transmission of "variant viruses" between humans and pigs. If the risk for human to swine transmission changes or if the level of human activity increase, we shall modify these recommendations accordingly.

Defining the Terms

- **Terminal show events** - Exhibitions where animals exhibited are sent directly to slaughter following the show.
- **Breeding show events** - Exhibitions where the animals are considered to be breeding stock. The animals may return to their original farm or be sold through a sale at the show. The animals exhibited return to a farm for entry into the breeding herd. Standard practice is to isolate and quarantine these animals on-farm for 30 days before entering the breeding herd.
- **Non-terminal market hog show events** - Exhibitions for market hogs that return to their home premises and/or go to subsequent exhibitions.

General Biosecurity Management Practices

- **Human health** - Exhibitors, and other animal caretakers, that have influenza-like symptoms (fever, headache, fatigue, cough, sore throat) should not be around swine for at least seven days from the beginning of symptoms or until a veterinarian has ruled out influenza as a diagnosis.
- **Swine health** - Observe pigs daily for signs of disease. If influenza-like signs are observed (heavy breathing, open mouth breathing, and coughing combined with a loss of appetite), a veterinarian should be contacted for evaluation and diagnosis.

Please note that project pigs with clinical signs of any disease or in the early treatment phases for disease should not be transported or exhibited.

The show veterinarian should isolate (in a separate facility when possible) any sick pig showing clinical signs of respiratory disease, notify the State Veterinarian of a potential swine influenza case, and collect samples as directed by state animal health officials.

Any persons (animal handlers, exhibitors, exhibitions personnel, or spectators) who develop fever and respiratory symptoms after being in contact with sick pigs with respiratory disease should notify the Flu Hotline: 1-888-865-0564 at the California Department of Public Health for guidance on diagnostic testing through their health care provider and the State Public Health Laboratory.

Show Committee and Organizers

- Market hog show events should be held following breeding show events.
- Breeding show/sale animals should leave the barn/show area prior to bringing in market animals.
- Show veterinarians should examine all pigs upon arrival (preferably before entering the show barn) and at least daily for the duration of the event.
- The show committee should work with the show veterinarians, state veterinarian, and county public health officials to develop a plan for identification of and response to influenza-like illness in pigs or exhibitors. Consider separate isolation facilities for holding pigs that become sick during the event.
- Provide an adequate number of hand washing stations, disinfectant soap and hand sanitizer dispensers during the exhibition.
- Pay special attention to barn hygiene and ventilation.
- Keep swine exhibitors contact information available for the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) inspection for two months after the show in case of the need for a trace back.

Exhibitors

- Exhibitors should follow the advice of their veterinarian with regard to vaccination. If pigs are vaccinated, tissue residue withdrawal periods shall be observed before slaughter.
- Exhibitors should consider the possibility that their animal may contract disease at the exhibit and bring the disease back to animals at the farm. This is a measureable risk for any show.
- Exhibitors should not participate if they, their close contacts, their show pig, or other animals with which the show pig has had close contact, have exhibited influenza-like symptoms in the seven days prior to exhibition.
- Pigs returning from shows/sales should be isolated in a separate facility, with appropriate biosecurity, and quarantined for 14 days before re-entry into the herd.

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