



Office of Marketing, Animal Industries & Consumer Services

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NEW INFLUENZA VIRUS FACT SHEET

To: Maryland Pork Producers and Swine Premise Owners

From: Dr. Guy Hohenhaus, Maryland State Veterinarian 

Date: April 27, 2009

This INFLUENZA VIRUS FACT SHEET is being sent to advise you on steps you can take to protect yourself, your employees, and your pigs from the new strain of swine influenza like virus H1N1, known as "swine flu" or "SIV" (Swine Influenza Virus). This disease has typical flu signs and symptoms. Signs of SIV in humans include fever, cough, body aches, and sometimes vomiting and diarrhea. Signs of SIV in pigs include: fever, off feed, sneezing, nasal discharge, labored breathing, cough, lethargy and abortion.

Human cases of influenza A (H1N1) virus infection have been identified in the United States and internationally. An investigation and response effort surrounding the outbreak is ongoing. Current results of the investigation can be obtained online at <http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/index.htm>.

OF NOTE: To date, **no pigs have been found to be infected with this virus;** however, it may be possible for your pigs to become infected with it from infected humans, and it is certainly possible for you, your family and your employees to become infected from other people with this disease.

TO PROTECT YOUR FAMILY, YOU, YOUR EMPLOYEES AND YOUR ANIMALS, please take the following precautions:

- Maintain a high level of bio-security on your facility
- Prevent sick workers from entering swine facilities – have them stay home and call their medical provider!
- Prevent entry of any worker who has traveled internationally within the past month; if not possible, require facemasks and gloves upon entry
- Require farm shoes and/or foot baths and hand and arm washing before contact with pigs. Change into farm-specific clothes if possible.
- Vaccinate pigs against influenza virus
- Encourage your workers to be vaccinated against the seasonal influenza virus

IF YOU HAVE A PIG WITH SIGNS OF INFLUENZA, PLEASE CALL YOUR VETERINARIAN FIRST; THEY ARE IN THE BEST POSITION TO EVALUATE YOUR SITUATION AND WILL NOTIFY THE APPROPRIATE AUTHORITY IF NEEDED.

For more information on Swine Flu, visit:

www.cdc.gov/swineflu, www.aphis.usda.gov, www.pork.org,
www.mda.state.md.us, www.dhmv.maryland.gov, and
www.avma.org/public_health/influenza/swine_bgnd.asp