



STATE OF WASHINGTON

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

P.O. Box 42560 • Olympia, Washington 98504-2560 • (360) 902-1878

# Swine Influenza and Exhibitions: Recommendations to Reduce Disease Risk

## From the State Veterinarian

Swine influenza (swine flu) is a respiratory disease of pigs caused by type A influenza virus. Swine flu viruses do not usually infect humans, but rare human infections have occurred, primarily at fairgrounds. Swine influenza viruses can circulate among swine throughout the year, but most outbreaks occur during times of stress. Changes in environment, housing, transport, and exhibition are all risk factors of disease. As you organize your local or state fair, you need to be aware of important information to help protect visitors and livestock.

- Require all pigs to have official identification.
- Limit the time pigs are congregated, co-mingled, and held at an exhibition.
  - Exhibition swine should not be kept on exhibition grounds longer than 72 hours.
  - Consider only having terminal (market) swine classes and no breeding classes.
  - Discourage “holdover pigs” held on exhibition grounds and exhibited in additional shows.
  - Release pigs from exhibition grounds as soon as possible following their respective show(s).
  - If offering both terminal (market) and breeding swine shows, schedule the terminal show after the breeding swine show or schedule a break between shows.
    - Use this break to clean and disinfect the facility.
    - If this cannot be done, separate market swine from breeding swine as stringently as possible.
  - Locate longer-term swine exhibits (i.e., big boars, birthing center animals, rare breeds, display exhibits of pigs) away from where competition swine are housed.
- Clean and disinfect
  - Gates, chutes, sort panels, and any equipment used during weighing and identification procedures.
- Establish a relationship with a veterinarian.
  - The veterinarian should be present or on call for the duration of the exhibition.
  - The veterinarian will be responsible for monitoring animals for signs of illness, evaluating sick animals, and taking steps as warranted to ensure ill swine are removed from the exhibition area and isolated or sent home.

- Establish a protocol to remove sick swine from the exhibition area immediately.
- Become familiar with clinical signs of influenza and other pig illnesses (off feed, lethargic, fever, nasal discharge, discolored skin, lameness, mouth or nose blisters, diarrhea, cough, sneezing, etc.).
- Seek veterinary assistance if a pig becomes sick at an exhibition.
- Sick pigs and sick people need to stay home so they do not risk infecting other pigs or people. Understand the risks to both humans and animals of taking a sick pig to a show.
- Do not mix species.
  - House poultry and waterfowl exhibits well away from swine exhibits and do not allow poultry in swine facilities.
  - To reduce the risk of development of a hybrid avian or swine influenza virus highly contagious and highly pathogenic to humans, discourage exhibitors from exhibiting and/or handling both poultry and swine at the same exhibition.
- Wash your hands.
  - Provide signage to encourage exhibitors and fair visitors to wash hands and/or use provided hand sanitizer before and after entering poultry and livestock facilities.
- Quarantine and isolate exhibition animals
  - Recommend exhibitors provide at least seven days of “down time” (on-farm quarantine) after returning from a previous exhibition before taking a pig or its pen mates to another exhibition to reduce the risk of spreading influenza or other diseases.
  - A 30 day on-farm quarantine of returning exhibition animals is preferred.

The state veterinarian reserves the right to apply further restrictions if the swine influenza or other disease threat increases as fair season approaches. If you have any questions, please contact the Animal Services Division at (360) 902-1878 or [animalhealth@agr.wa.gov](mailto:animalhealth@agr.wa.gov). Thank you for doing your part to help insure the health of swine and the swine industry in Washington State.

### Public Health Resources

- [Measures to Minimize Influenza Transmission at Swine Exhibitions: 2018](#)
- Issues for Fair Organizers to Consider When Planning Fairs (CDC): [Influenza A \(H3N2\) Variant Virus](#)
- Materials for Swine Exhibitors at Fairs, Materials for Visitors at Fairs and Influenza Fact Sheets:
  - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC): [Materials and Resources](#)
  - California Department of Public Health (CDPH): [Swine influenza](#)

### National Pork Board Resources

- [Influenza](#)
- [Tips to Keep You and Pigs Healthy](#)
- Help Keep Our Animals Healthy: [Wash Your Hands](#)
- Good Habits That [Keep You and Your Pigs Healthy](#)
- Swine Health Recommendations: [Exhibitors of All Pigs Going to Exhibits or Sales](#)