

Protecting your show pigs from Influenza

Biosecurity recommendations for swine show and exhibition exhibitors

Biosecurity is a critical step in keeping your pigs healthy before, during and after the show. Following these simple steps can help minimize the risk of Influenza and other illness to your pigs.

Before the show

- If a pig is sick, DO NOT attend the show or exhibition and call your veterinarian
- Clean and disinfect your show supplies and equipment and your truck and trailer
- Use disinfectants labeled for H5N1 and use according to label <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/epas-registered-antimicrobial-products-effective-against-avian-influenza#for>

During the show

- DO NOT share supplies or equipment
- Wash hands frequently, especially before and after handling your pigs
- Avoid contact with other animals (pigs, chickens, cattle)
- Monitor your pigs for illness and report any illness to the organizers of the event
- Clean up after yourself and your pigs (bedding, animal waste, supplies, etc)
- With Bird Flu considerations, this may be the year to not visit your friends exhibiting poultry or dairy cattle

After the Show

- Clean and disinfect all supplies, equipment, and vehicles that went to the event
- Shower and put on clean clothes and shoes before coming into contact with pigs or other animals at home at a location away from your animals
- Clean shoes and launder clothes that were worn at the show
- Quarantine your pigs when you get home

References

<https://vet.osu.edu/sites/default/files/documents/swine-zoonotic-disease.pdf>

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Monitoring Your Pig Daily for Signs of Illness

- Is your pig eating normally?
- Is your pig coughing, sneezing, or having difficulty breathing? Is there any nasal discharge?
- Is your pig showing behavioral changes (depressed, isolated, lethargic)
- Does your pig have loose stools?

What to know about Swine and Bird Flu

Swine flu and bird flu are both influenza A viruses that can infect swine and humans. Both can spread whenever animals and people congregate. Therefore, agricultural shows, fairs, and exhibitions pose a risk. However, knowing what to look for and practicing good biosecurity and hygiene will help to reduce the risk to humans and animals.

It is important to note that swine flu virus spreads readily from person-to-person like seasonal flu. However, with bird flu, the virus transmission is mostly limited to birds with minimal cases in swine. Both can cause respiratory illness in humans, with symptoms like fever, cough, sore throat, runny nose, muscle aches, headaches, and fatigue.

Important Considerations

- Pigs may not show signs of illness
- Young pigs typically experience more severe symptoms of illness
- People can infect pigs
- Pigs can infect people - *exhibitors and spectators*
- Certain people are at higher risk of severe illness if they are around infected pigs (very young, very old, immune compromised)



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