



## FACT SHEET

### BIOSECURITY FOR VISITORS

#### Why must I know if Visitors contact my Pigs?

Visitors can carry disease-causing agents that could then infect your pigs. This is particularly a risk if visitors are wearing clothing that has been in contact with other pigs and/or their manure. The bacteria that cause Swine Dysentery can survive for prolonged periods (1-4 months) in moist, cool manure and this could then be transmitted to your pigs if carried in on dirty boots. Humans can infect pigs with Influenza A Pandemic H1N1 (2009) ("Swine Flu"). Visitors who have had contact with pigs overseas may carry Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) Virus and/or Porcine Reproductive Respiratory Syndrome Virus (PRRS).

#### Vehicles

You should take precautions against contamination from vehicles. The truck picking up pigs for slaughter is a particular danger.

#### What should I do to Minimise Risks?

- Erect a large quarantine sign at the entrance to your piggery warning visitors not to enter the farm without permission.
- Install a loud siren / door bell so visitors can contact farm workers without need for entering the farm. Alternatively, provide a mobile phone contact name and number on your quarantine sign.
- Reduce visitors to a minimum and make any that have to enter your pig building change into clothes and boots that are kept on the farm.
- A controlled entry for visitors should include:
  - A "dirty" side (where visitors remove their street / outer clothes).
  - A "clean" side (where visitors put on your piggery clothes).
  - A way of clearly marking which side is which. A bench seat or simply a line drawn on the floor can do this.
  - A hand basin for washing hands.
  - One way of ensuring that visitors change all their cloths before entry is to insist on them taking a shower. If they wash their hair while showering it adds to the farm biosecurity.



- Compulsory showering helps to deter visitors and raises biosecurity attitudes.
- You might also insist that visitors stay away from other pigs for a period of time before visiting. A minimum period would be one night. Some pig farmers with large herds insist on two nights down-time. If you do not insist on down-time, check whether your visitors have come from contaminated places like pig farms, abattoirs, animal renderers, or post-mortem rooms. If they have, do not let them in.
- Make them sign a visitors' book stating that they have not been in such places.
- You and the other pig attendants should follow the same rules and keep away from contact with other pigs and contaminated places too.
- Do not allow visitors that have any signs of cold or flu to contact your pigs. The same rule should apply to you and your staff. Some owners insist that visitors and staff have been vaccinated against seasonal flu before allowing access to pigs.
- Always insist that any trucks that have transported pigs are well washed out and left to dry before visiting your herd. Ideally, trucks carrying multiple loads of pigs from different farms should visit your herd first.
- You should also take precautions against contamination from trucks by building a safe pig-loading bay on the perimeter of your farm and by not allowing the driver into your pig buildings.



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