

Producer Notice

16 August 2012



Flu Season and Biosecurity

The height of the flu season offers a timely reminder to pork producers Australia-wide to be vigilant with on-farm bio-security to protect their pigs against strains of influenza.

APL recommends that all farms implement the following:

1. Establish, implement and enforce strict sick leave policies for on-farm workers with influenza-like illness

- An influenza-like illness is a fever (or feverish), AND a cough and/fatigue in the absence of any other explanation for symptoms.
- Encourage all farm workers, especially those in close contact with the animals, to notify the owner immediately if they develop an influenza-like illness.
- Prevent anyone showing these symptoms from coming to work for seven days after onset of symptoms, provided they have recovered.
- Recommend that people with these symptoms see a doctor.
- Sick farm workers should inform their doctor of their contact with pigs to obtain a medical certificate.

2. Influenza vaccination of workers

- Recommend that all workers in the pig industry (and family members who live on-site on piggeries) are vaccinated against the seasonal influenza virus every year.

3. Limit visitors to farms

- Maintain a register which visitors have to sign indicating that;
 - they have showered and changed clothes since their last exposure to pigs; and
 - they are not experiencing fever or any flu-like symptoms.
- Stop unnecessary visitors to the piggery.

4. Follow other generally accepted bio-security practices

- Routinely clean clothing and footwear.
- Implement and enforce the use of personal protective equipment (PPE). Where influenza is suspected in a herd, workers contacting sick animals should wear protective masks (surgical masks or preferably P2/N95 masks ("respirators")), eye protection and disposable gloves as a minimum.
- Wash hands with soap and water or clean with alcohol-based hand-rub after removal of PPE.
- Control entry to the farm.
- Implement a policy which does not permit staff to own or work with other pigs.
- Keep non-farm vehicles outside of farm or at least their drivers inside their vehicles.
- Assess the health of any pigs coming onto the property, use quarantine principles and prevent those assessed as a high risk from entering.
- Regularly inspect your herd for unusual signs of disease and report any problems to your veterinarian, local district veterinary officer or the National Emergency Animal Disease Watch Hotline on **1800 675 888**.

Key APL Contacts

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