



## FACT SHEET

July 2017

### INFLUENZA A PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT

Prior to the 2009 human pandemic, cases of human spillover infection of pigs with an influenza virus, had never been identified or diagnosed in Australian pigs.

Symptoms observed in Australia at that time were less complicated and very different to symptoms previously and currently observed in typical swine influenza outbreaks overseas. Most common symptoms in Australian herds were:

- i) lack of interest in feed
- ii) a dry cough
- iii) elevated temperatures in some animals, and
- iv) lethargy.

These symptoms are also suggestive of other diseases, so if you are concerned about the well-being of your animals please contact your veterinarian or your local animal health officer or state government district veterinarian.

#### Prevention and management on farm

Good farm biosecurity and management practices are the most effective measures to prevent the introduction and spread of influenza A viruses. The virus may disappear from individual premises, particularly those that are all-in all-out systems, however, the immunity acquired by recovered animals is short lived making them susceptible to reinfection and disease if re-exposed. Make sure your biosecurity practices place special emphasis on protecting your animals and your farm's workers by monitoring all persons having access to your operation. Think about implementing the following routines:

1. **Establish, implement and enforce strict sick leave policies for workers presenting influenza-like symptoms such as fever, cough, body aches, and sometimes vomiting and diarrhea**
  - prevent any worker exhibiting these symptoms from coming to work for at least seven days after presenting symptoms of respiratory illness, even mild ones



- recommend that workers with these symptoms be seen by a doctor immediately
  - sick workers should inform their doctor of their contact with pigs to obtain a medical certificate
  - encourage piggery employees especially those in close contact with the animals to notify their manager or leading hand if any members of their family or any people they have frequent contact with are exhibiting flu or flu-like symptoms. Consider restricting the contact that this worker has with the animals.
2. **Implement biosecurity for workers reporting international travel**
    - consider implementing a down time for all workers that have travelled overseas
    - if workers reporting international travel present influenza-like symptoms, restrict their access to the farm. Recommend that they seek immediate medical attention and that they report their travel to the medical professional.



### 3. Limit visitors to farms

- visitors to a piggery should be discouraged
- prevent international visitors from entering your facilities especially those who have just entered Australia within the last two weeks.

### 4. Follow other generally accepted biosecurity practices

- routinely clean clothing and footwear
- ensuring clean protective outerwear (correct sizes), skin and boot cleansers and disinfectants are available
- implement and enforce the use of personal protective equipment
- if allowing certain visitors, make them shower or at least wash their hands and scrub fingernails
- provision of convenient toilets and ample hot water for showers and washing
- control entry to the farm by well maintained fences, a locked gate, a communication system at the gate and signs with instructions for entry for visitors
- implement a policy which does not permit staff to own or work with other pigs
- specify to staff that they must not come to work if they have a fever or are ill

- maintain a visitor register which visitors have to sign indicating that
  - they have showered and changed clothes since their last exposure to pigs.
  - they have not returned from overseas travel within the last 7–10 days
  - they are not experiencing fever or any flu-like symptoms.
- demarcate dirty off-farm areas with barriers such as a locked door or shower, where people have to undress before entering the clean farm areas and putting on farm provided clothes
- keeping non-farm vehicles outside of farm or at least their drivers inside their vehicles
- recommend that all workers are vaccinated against the seasonal influenza virus.

Disclaimer: The opinions, advice and information contained in this publication have not been provided at the request of any person but are offered by Australian Pork Limited (APL) solely for informational purposes. While APL has no reason to believe that the information contained in this publication is inaccurate, APL is unable to guarantee the accuracy of the information and, subject to any terms implied by law which cannot be excluded, accepts no responsibility for loss suffered as a result of any party's reliance on the accuracy or currency of the content of this publication. The information contained in this publication should not be relied upon for any purpose, including as a substitute for professional advice. Nothing within the publication constitutes an express or implied warranty, or representation, with respect to the accuracy or currency of the publication, any future matter or as to the value of or demand for any good.