

Minimizing Influenza Transmission during Exhibitions – Checklist for Protecting Guests, Exhibitors, and Pigs

Important Considerations

- *Pigs may not show signs of illness*
- *People can infect pigs*
- *Pigs can infect people- exhibitors and guests*
- *Certain people are at higher risk of severe illness if they are around infected pigs*
- *Some people have died due to exposure to swine influenza at shows and fairs*

The best practices described below are based on the **Measures to Minimize Influenza Transmission at Swine Exhibitions, 2018**

Preparation and Planning Prior to the Exhibition

- Establish an active response plan
 - Maintain current contact information for all exhibitors
 - Gather contact information: state animal health, state and/or local public health, and local veterinarian
 - Check for after hour phone numbers of the key contacts
 - Designate a chain of command and identify a spokesperson in case of an incident
 - Use a record-keeping system to track vital information such as pig arrival/release, temperature and clinical signs, owner contact information, etc.
- Identify a veterinarian who will be present or on call for the duration of the exhibit
 - Veterinarian should be equipped to sample pigs with signs of influenza
- Post signage at the entrance of the exhibition that includes the following messages:
 - All animals can carry germs that make people sick
 - Some people are more likely to get sick and may become severely ill: babies and children under 5 years of age, pregnant women, older adults, and people with weakened immune systems or chronic illnesses
 - Wash your hands with soap and water right after visiting the animals
 - No food, drinks, baby bottles, pacifiers, toys or strollers in animal areas
 - Make sure kids don't put their finger or other things in their mouth
- Place hand washing stations and hand washing signage at exits
 - Plan for restocking supplies- paper towels, soap, and running water
- Identify a temporary isolation area for ill animals
- Limit the time pigs are held at the facility
 - Whenever possible, pigs should be kept no more than 72 hours; discourage holdover pigs
 - Locate long term pigs (i.e. big boars and birthing center pigs) away from areas where short term pigs are housed
 - Consider the order of the show schedule
 - Terminal pigs last
- Gather basic supplies such as disinfectants, thermometers, gloves, masks, and booties
- Locate food service areas away from animal barns
- Clean and disinfect the barn prior to the animals coming in
 - Pens, gates, chutes, sort panels, scales, feeders, waterers

Show-time Essentials

- Conduct a pre-show meeting with exhibitors including adult supervisors, parents, 4-H leaders, and FFA instructors
 - How to monitor and report sick pigs
 - How to monitor and report sick exhibitors
 - Possibility for emergency changes in arrival/release dates/times
 - Appropriate hygiene and biosecurity practices for both personnel and animals such as washing hands, not sharing equipment, not sleeping in the animal areas, and maintaining clean animals
- Monitor weather forecast
 - Extreme heat conditions:
 - Alter schedule to minimize heat stress (i.e. arrival/release during overnight, early release, etc.)
 - Control ambient temperature by increasing ventilation with fans and consider using other methods for cooling such as sprinklers on the roof
- Record keeping of animals and exhibitors:
 - 24-hour contact information for exhibitors
 - Animal identification
 - Arrival tracking
 - Stalling location
 - Release tracking

In the Event of an Outbreak or Other Health Event

- Notify and work with:
 - Show veterinarian
 - Animal health officials- State veterinarian
 - State or local health department
- Implement biosecurity protocol
 - Limit access to pigs and barn area, especially to people at high risk
 - Use personal protective equipment
 - Plan for sick and/or dead animal removal
 - Testing plan for sick pigs and sick people
 - Cleaning and disinfecting procedures checklist
 - Hold sick market pigs until they recover
- Establish regular communication with authorities, industry representatives, and media
 - Identify official spokesperson
 - Identify person to facilitate communications with the show/fair, industry, public health officials, and animal health authorities and to coordinate messaging with these entities
- Maintain good record keeping, isolation logs, and monitoring of pig health (temperature and health condition)

Preparation and Planning After the Exhibition

- Review and reflect on procedures and activities during exhibition
- Plan for future exhibitions based on outcome
 - Focus on improving areas where there was a lack of planning and execution
 - Focus on new information learned from exhibitors, event organizers, public health and animal health authorities
- Clean and disinfect animal areas and equipment