

Maryland Animal Health Network

Swine Health Alert



Swine influenza H3N2 variant has been found in the U.S. fair circuit this season, and the Maryland Department of Agriculture Animal Health Section cautions Maryland swine producers and exhibitors to maintain tight sanitation and biosecurity precautions, and to keep close watch for signs of illness in their swine. Together we can work to minimize the spread of this disease.

UNIVERSITY OF
MARYLAND
EXTENSION
Solutions in your community

Swine Influenza (SIV H3N2v): The year's first cases of H3N2v influenza infection in humans were reported in June 2013. These cases were associated with exposure to swine at an agricultural fair in Indiana. Pigs at the fair tested positive for Influenza A, H3N2v virus. The virus genotype is very similar to those found last summer in association with many fairs in the Midwest. The clinical signs of illness in humans are typical influenza-like symptoms (coughing, fever, etc.). There were reports of some illness (coughing and off-feed) in a few of the pigs at the Indiana fair; however, pigs can shed influenza A virus and show few or no clinical signs of illness.

NOTE: Influenza A is not a pork food safety issue. People do not contract flu from eating or handling pork and pork products.

Steps You Can Take To Protect Your Pigs and People:

As producers handle their herd and exhibitors plan for fair season, a few simple actions can help minimize potential transmission of influenza A (SIV) between pigs, from pigs to people, or people to pigs:

- 1) LOOK FOR SIGNS OF ILLNESS:** Swine exhibitors should be particularly vigilant in looking for clinical signs in their swine that may indicate influenza or other illness, such as coughing, sneezing, or high temperature.
- 2) NOTIFY A VETERINARIAN:** Report illness or influenza-like symptoms to either your own veterinarian or the fair veterinarian.
- 3) PRACTICE BIOSECURITY AND SANITATION:** Swine producers and exhibitors should practice biosecurity and common sense health practices in the swine barns at home and at all fairs. This includes quarantining new pigs from the existing herd for 30 days before mixing with other animals; isolating sick pigs from healthy pigs; cleaning and disinfecting shared equipment; washing hands well between handling pigs; and not eating, drinking or sleeping in pig stalls.



Additional sources of information on influenza in both people and pigs, good biosecurity practices for swine shows, and updated information on influenza virus transmission between people and pigs can be found at the following websites:

- <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/swineflu/h3n2v-cases.htm>
- <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/swineflu/h3n2v-fairs-factsheet.htm>
- <http://www.pork.org/Resources/1389/influenza.aspx>
- <http://www.usaha.org/Portals/6/news/Swine%20Exhibitions%202013.pdf>