



SWINE HEALTH ALERT

An Alert from the Maryland State Veterinarian's Office

Swine Influenza Virus Found at Fairs in Charles, Frederick Counties

October 2017

ANNAPOLIS, MD - Swine influenza H3N2 variant has been found in the U.S. fair circuit this season, including Maryland fairs, and the Maryland Department of Agriculture Animal Health Program 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.

Swine Influenza (SIV H3N2v): The year's first cases of H3N2v influenza infection in humans were reported in July 2017 in Ohio. In September, Maryland has confirmed 18 cases of H3N2 influenza in swine at Maryland fairs. The clinical signs of illness in humans are typical influenza-like symptoms (coughing, fever, etc.). Pigs can shed influenza A virus and show few or no clinical signs of illness. Animals from herds exhibiting clinical signs or suspected to be exposed to other animals with swine influenza should not come to exhibitions.

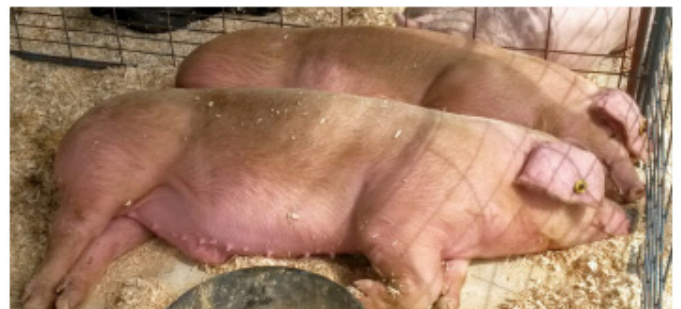
For Veterinarians

Any veterinarian with with questions about clinical signs or sample collection please call: 410-841-5810

Steps Swine Exhibitors Can Take to Protect Pigs and People

As producers handle their herd and exhibitors prepare for fair season, 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.



Maryland Department of Agriculture, Animal Health

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