



April 27, 2009

F2009-09

TO: All California Fair Chief Executive Officers & Exhibit Staff

FROM: Michael F. Treacy, Director

SUBJECT: **Swine Influenza Virus (SIV) Update in California**

The Division of Fairs and Expositions is currently working with CDFA Animal Health officials and the CDC to develop materials for distribution to the network of California fairs regarding Swine Influenza. At this time your swine shows can continue as scheduled. CDFA veterinarians may be attending upcoming swine shows for surveillance and will be in contact with your fair prior to doing so. Please notify F&E of any cases of swine influenza in your area so we can keep everyone informed. Below is an informative memo from State Veterinarian Dr. Richard Breitmeyer on Swine Influenza for your reference. We encourage you to share this information along with the other resource materials provided in this email with your local 4H, FFA, and other agriculture organizations in your community.

**Swine Influenza Virus (SIV) Update in California –
Message from CA State Veterinarian, Dr. Richard Breitmeyer:**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has identified cases in Southern California and Texas where people have been diagnosed with a form of influenza virus known as swine influenza virus subtype H1N1.

Preliminary investigations indicate that in all cases there was no contact with swine. The swine influenza subtype isolated from these cases is unique and not previously recognized in either pigs or people.

Currently, there are no known outbreaks of swine influenza in pigs in California.

Public health, California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) and United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) veterinarians are investigating any possible link to swine but, to date, there are no known swine exposures and animal health laboratories report that there are no recent cases of this swine influenza subtype detected anywhere in the United States.



Owners of sick pigs are encouraged to call their veterinarian or CDFA.

- CDFA and USDA officials work together with animal owners and veterinarians to look for unusual swine influenza outbreaks in pig populations on a regular basis.
- Owners of sick pigs with questions should call the Animal Health Branch District Office nearest them. (District map attached)
- Appropriate samples may be submitted to any of the California Animal Health and Food Safety Labs (CAHFSL map attached)

The California Department of Food and Agriculture always recommends proper hygiene and health management practices when working with animals, which include:

- Wash hands before and after working with animals.
- Keep new animals separate from your herd for two weeks and observe for signs of disease.
- More specific swine biosecurity recommendations may be found on the National Pork Board website <http://www.pork.org>.

Key background information on swine influenza in pigs:

- Swine Influenza Virus infections are a common cause of respiratory illness in pigs.
- Flu vaccines for pigs can help, but are not 100% effective. One reason is that several different strains of flu can infect pigs and vaccines may not protect against all strains.
- Infected pigs usually show signs of disease about 3 days post exposure and then are sick and infectious for about a week.
- Pigs may show a variety of signs of disease, including coughing, runny nose and/or eyes, sneezing, depression, lack of appetite, depression, difficulty breathing and fever. The fever can cause them to abort a pregnancy.
- Spread of the virus from pig to pig can be rapid and occurs via direct contact, getting carried on something that was not cleaned, and via respiratory excretions that become airborne for a short distance.
- According to CDC, swine influenza virus is not considered a threat to food safety. Swine influenza viruses are not spread by food. You cannot get swine influenza from eating pork or pork products. Eating properly handled and cooked pork and pork products are safe.

For more detailed information related to swine influenza in pigs:

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/>

<http://www.cdph.ca.gov/HealthInfo/discond/Pages/SwineInfluenza.aspx>

http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/ahfss/Animal_Health/Swine_Health.html#Flu

<http://www.pork.org>

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If you have any further questions, please contact our Animal Health Branch office listed below:

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