



EXHIBITOR AND PARENT FACT SHEET: SWINE INFLUENZA

Swine Influenza Facts:

- Swine influenza is a virus which commonly circulates in the pig population.
- Swine influenza is a zoonotic disease and can occasionally be transmitted to humans.
- Washing your hands with soap and water is very effective at killing the virus.
- People who are frequently around pigs, such as exhibitors and caretakers have the highest risk of exposure and should be following proper biosecurity practices to protect themselves and their animals.
- Swine influenza cannot be spread by eating pork or handling pork products. All pork products from exhibition pigs remain completely safe for human consumption if cooked according to USDA recommendations.

Prevention Strategies to Implement this Week:

1. Observe your pigs

- Monitor your pigs for any illness. Make sure that you are getting your pigs up during feeding times to properly observe them and encourage them to eat in hot weather.
- With warmer temperatures, make sure your hog(s) are getting enough fresh, clean water to drink and are cooled slowly with water as needed.
- Notify your fair veterinarian and your swine superintendent if pigs have: fever, gone off feed, nasal discharge, inactivity/huddling, high respiration (rapid breathing) or heart rate, sneezing or coughing (barking).

2. Wash your hands

- Wash your hands after each time you handle your pigs or their equipment.
- Soap and water are the most effective way to prevent the spread of influenza.
- Lather with soap for 15 to 20 seconds.
- If soap and water are not available, hand sanitizer or hand wipes can be used.

3. No eating or drinking in the barn

- Eating and drinking in the barn can help spread the virus to humans. Make sure to consume beverages and food outside the barn.
- Make sure to stay hydrated during fair.
- Create an alternative place to socialize, eat and stay hydrated.

4. Wash and disinfect swine equipment

- Disinfect animal equipment that is used between club members before using with your animal.
 - Sorting boards, for example, can be cleaned with a disinfection solution (such as ½ cup of bleach to one gallon of water) or if plastic, a disinfecting wipe.
 - If handling disinfectants, consider wearing disposable gloves and always use under the directions of an adult.
- Be patient. The fair will be taking actions to disinfect scales and wash racks. This will take added time so please allow for that during the fair.

Reminders for After the Fair:

- If you feel ill, seek medical attention.
- Clean and disinfect your animal's equipment.
 - Remove manure and other organic material.
 - Wash with soap and water.
 - Use disinfectant (for example, ½ cup of bleach to one gallon of water).
 - Allow time to dry.
- Change your shoes, boots and clothes.
 - Wash or disinfect the clothing and shoes you wore at the fair before wearing them into your home barn or animal facility.