

Issues Alert #24

Pandemic H1N1 2009 update

12 October 2009 16:00



H1N1 Virus in Queensland

- A Queensland piggery near Toowoomba has been placed in quarantine after returning positive tests for Influenza A H1N1. Movement controls are in place and all contact premises identified showed no evidence of disease on these premises.
- The farm owners are working with Biosecurity Queensland and Australian Pork Limited to ensure a coordinated response is in place and the rapid elimination of infection from the property.
- This is the second case of human pandemic (H1N1) 2009 influenza detected at a piggery in Queensland following the quarantine of a piggery near Dalby in August (which has since recovered and been removed from quarantine).

H1N1 Virus in other states - update

- All pigs at the Victorian Infected Premise (IP) have recovered. The farm has been cleared and is no longer under quarantine.
- All pigs at the NSW IP have recovered. The farm has been cleared and is no longer under quarantine.
- All pigs at the initial QLD IP (near Dalby) have recovered. The farm has been cleared and is no longer under quarantine.

Vaccinations for Pandemic H1N1 2009 in Australia

- A vaccine for H1N1 has been approved by the Therapeutic Goods Administration, and is now available to the Australian adult population. (The TGA is yet to register a vaccine for children under 9 years of age).
- The human adult trials have indicated that the pandemic vaccine is similar to that of seasonal influenza vaccine with a high safety and low adverse events profile, and that only one injection is required for adults.
- Vaccinations are available from General Practitioners around Australia. While the initial rollout of the vaccine will concentrate on vaccinating front-line health workers and vulnerable people who may experience severe effects from the pandemic influenza, the wider population will also be able to access the vaccine.
- APL encourages all piggery workers, as well as those in contact with pigs such as veterinarians, consultants and APIQ auditors to protect themselves and their herds against the pandemic flu by getting vaccinated.

Information and assistance for pig owners and the community

- APL is urging ALL producers to take extra precaution to protect their herds and workers.
- Both national and international food authorities firmly state that **PORK IS SAFE TO EAT**. There is no evidence to suggest that influenza can be transmitted to people through eating pork products.

Enhanced Biosecurity Measures for Piggeries

- It is critical that pork producers are vigilant with biosecurity to protect against disease incursion. If in doubt contact your vet.
- If you have any of these signs in your herd, contacting your veterinarian or the Emergency Animal Disease Watch Hotline on 1800 675 888 (24-hour hotline). See the "Enhanced Biosecurity Arrangements for Producers" Alert available from APL website www.australianpork.com.au

Further Information - APL Key Contacts

General H1N1 Inquiries	Kathleen Plowman	0402 794 901	
Media Inquiries	Emily Mackintosh	0418 697 595	