

Issues Alert #21

Pandemic H1N1 2009 update

25 August 2009 16:00



H1N1 Virus in Queensland

- A Queensland piggery near Dalby has been placed in quarantine after returning positive tests for Influenza A. Movement controls are in place and all contact premises identified showed no evidence of disease on these premises.
- The pigs are mildly infected and recovering with little or no symptoms.
- The farm owners are working with QPIF Queensland Health, Australian Pork Limited, and the Federal Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry to ensure a coordinated response is in place and the rapid elimination of infection from the property.

H1N1 Virus in Victoria - update

- A diagnosis of Influenza A H1 has been found in a piggery in the Goulburn Valley Victoria.
- The affected farm is under quarantine, and movement controls are in place. All contact premises identified showed no evidence of disease on these premises.
- The pigs are mildly infected and recovering with little or no symptoms.
- The farm owners are working with Victorian DPI, the national authorities and APL to ensure the rapid elimination of infection from the property.
- There have been no market access issues reported at this stage.

H1N1 Virus in NSW - update

- All pigs at the NSW IP have recovered.
- There continues to be ongoing monitoring of pig health and the farm remains under quarantine with livestock movement controls in place.

Information and assistance for pig owners and the community

- APL has continued to lobby for pig farmers and workers, pig vets and abattoir workers to be considered a priority for vaccination when a vaccine becomes available (likely to be September). We await a decision from Health authorities.
- Stringent biosecurity on-farm remains critical!
- Both national and international food authorities firmly state that **PORK IS SAFE TO EAT**. It is impossible to contract Influenza A/H1N1 from eating pork and pork related products. There is no connection between pork products and this disease.

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

Further Information

- **APL** - <http://www.australianpork.com.au> - For updates on Pandemic H1N1 2009
- **Animal Health Australia** - <http://www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au/>
- **Office of the Chief Veterinary Officer** - <http://www.daff.gov.au/animal-plant-health/animal>

Key APL Contacts:

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