

Issues Alert 23

Pandemic H1N1 2009 - Vaccinations



25 September 2009

Vaccinations for Pandemic H1N1 2009 in Australia

- A vaccine for H1N1 has been approved by the Therapeutic Goods Administration, and will be available to the Australian adult population from 30th September 2009.
- Vaccinations will be 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.
- The TGA registration approval is only for adults at this stage. The TGA is yet to register a vaccine for children 9 years and under and is awaiting further data from clinical trials before determining whether it is safe for children. 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.

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 signs of Pandemic H1N1 2009 in your herd, contact your veterinarian. 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