

## Minimizing Influenza Transmission during Exhibitions – Checklist for Protecting Guests, Exhibitors, and Pigs

### ***Important Considerations***

- *Pigs may not show signs of illness*
- *People can infect pigs*
- *Pigs can infect people- exhibitors and guests*
- *Certain people are at higher risk of severe illness if they are around infected pigs*
- *Some people have died due to exposure to swine influenza at shows and fairs*

The best practices described below are based on the **Measures to Minimize Influenza Transmission at Swine Exhibitions, 2018**

### **Preparation and Planning Prior to the Exhibition**

- Establish an active response plan
  - Maintain current contact information for all exhibitors
  - Gather contact information: state animal health, state and/or local public health, and local veterinarian
    - Check for after hour phone numbers of the key contacts
  - Designate a chain of command and identify a spokesperson in case of an incident
  - Use a record-keeping system to track vital information such as pig arrival/release, temperature and clinical signs, owner contact information, etc.
- Identify a veterinarian who will be present or on call for the duration of the exhibit
  - Veterinarian should be equipped to sample pigs with signs of influenza
- Post signage at the entrance of the exhibition that includes the following messages:
  - All animals can carry germs that make people sick
  - Some people are more likely to get sick and may become severely ill: babies and children under 5 years of age, pregnant women, older adults, and people with weakened immune systems or chronic illnesses
  - Wash your hands with soap and water right after visiting the animals
  - No food, drinks, baby bottles, pacifiers, toys or strollers in animal areas
  - Make sure kids don't put their finger or other things in their mouth
- Place hand washing stations and hand washing signage at exits
  - Plan for restocking supplies- paper towels, soap, and running water
- Identify a temporary isolation area for ill animals
- Limit the time pigs are held at the facility
  - Whenever possible, pigs should be kept no more than 72 hours; discourage holdover pigs
  - Locate long term pigs (i.e. big boars and birthing center pigs) away from areas where short term pigs are housed
  - Consider the order of the show schedule
    - Terminal pigs last
- Gather basic supplies such as disinfectants, thermometers, gloves, masks, and booties
- Locate food service areas away from animal barns
- Clean and disinfect the barn prior to the animals coming in
  - Pens, gates, chutes, sort panels, scales, feeders, waterers

## Show-time Essentials

- Conduct a pre-show meeting with exhibitors including adult supervisors, parents, 4-H leaders, and FFA instructors
  - How to monitor and report sick pigs
  - How to monitor and report sick exhibitors
  - Possibility for emergency changes in arrival/release dates/times
  - Appropriate hygiene and biosecurity practices for both personnel and animals such as washing hands, not sharing equipment, not sleeping in the animal areas, and maintaining clean animals
- Monitor weather forecast
  - Extreme heat conditions:
    - Alter schedule to minimize heat stress (i.e. arrival/release during overnight, early release, etc.)
    - Control ambient temperature by increasing ventilation with fans and consider using other methods for cooling such as sprinklers on the roof
- Record keeping of animals and exhibitors:
  - 24-hour contact information for exhibitors
  - Animal identification
  - Arrival tracking
  - Stalling location
  - Release tracking

## In the Event of an Outbreak or Other Health Event

- Notify and work with:
  - Show veterinarian
  - Animal health officials- State veterinarian
  - State or local health department
- Implement biosecurity protocol
  - Limit access to pigs and barn area, especially to people at high risk
  - Use personal protective equipment
  - Plan for sick and/or dead animal removal
  - Testing plan for sick pigs and sick people
  - Cleaning and disinfecting procedures checklist
  - Hold sick market pigs until they recover
- Establish regular communication with authorities, industry representatives, and media
  - Identify official spokesperson
  - Identify person to facilitate communications with the show/fair, industry, public health officials, and animal health authorities and to coordinate messaging with these entities
- Maintain good record keeping, isolation logs, and monitoring of pig health (temperature and health condition)

## Preparation and Planning After the Exhibition

- Review and reflect on procedures and activities during exhibition
- Plan for future exhibitions based on outcome
  - Focus on improving areas where there was a lack of planning and execution
  - Focus on new information learned from exhibitors, event organizers, public health and animal health authorities
- Clean and disinfect animal areas and equipment