
New Hampshire

Department of Agriculture,
Markets & Food

H1N1 Influenza Animal Health Update in New Hampshire April 2009

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has identified several states where people have been diagnosed with a form of influenza virus known as H1N1. The influenza subtype isolated from these cases is unique and not previously recognized in either pigs or people.

Currently, there are no known outbreaks of swine influenza in pigs in New Hampshire.

- New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services (NHDHHS), New Hampshire Department of Agriculture, Markets, and Food (NHDAMF) and United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) veterinarians are available to investigate possible links to swine but, to date, **there are no known swine exposures** and animal health laboratories report that there are no recent cases of this swine influenza subtype detected anywhere in the United States.
- The recent detection of H1N1 influenza in pigs in Alberta, Canada does not change the situation here in the United States.

Owners of sick pigs are encouraged to call their veterinarian or NHDAMF.

- NHDAMF and USDA officials work together with animal owners and veterinarians to look for unusual swine influenza outbreaks in pig populations on a regular basis.
- Owners of sick pigs with questions should call their veterinarian or the NHDAMF office at 603-271-2404

The New Hampshire Department of Agriculture, Markets, and Food always recommends proper hygiene and health management practices when working with animals, which include:

- Wash hands before and after working with animals.
- Keep new animals separate from your herd for two weeks and observe for signs of disease.
- More specific swine biosecurity recommendations may be found on the National Pork Board website <http://www.pork.org>

Key background information on swine influenza in pigs:

- Swine Influenza Virus infections are a common cause of respiratory illness in pigs.
- Flu vaccines for pigs can help, but are not 100% effective. One reason is that several different strains of flu can infect pigs and vaccines may not protect against all strains.
- Infected pigs usually show signs of disease about 3 days post exposure and then are sick and infectious for about a week.
- Pigs may show a variety of signs of disease, including coughing, runny nose and/or eyes, sneezing, depression, lack of appetite, depression, difficulty breathing and fever. The fever can cause them to abort a pregnancy.
- Spread of the virus from pig to pig can be rapid and occurs via direct contact, getting carried on something that was not cleaned, and via respiratory excretions that become airborne for a short distance.
- According to CDC, swine influenza virus is not considered a threat to food safety. Swine influenza viruses are not spread by food. You cannot get swine influenza from eating pork or pork products. Eating properly handled and cooked pork and pork products is safe.

The impact of the new H1N1 strain of influenza on pets:

- Currently, there is not enough information to fully assess the health implications of this novel strain of flu virus for animals.
- There is no evidence at this time that swine in the United States are infected with this flu virus strain.
- It is very unlikely that dogs, cats, or horses would become infected with this virus.
- It may be possible for a pet monkey (nonhuman primate) to become infected with this new virus from a human.

For more detailed information relative to the ongoing influenza outbreak:

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/>
<http://www.nh.gov/flu/index.html>
<http://www.pork.org>