

## Swine flu heightens emphasis on biosecurity

Media reports on a new strain of the swine influenza virus type H1N1 different from any other ever reported in U.S. swine herds serve as a reminder of the need for strict and enforceable biosecurity measured on U.S. pork production operations.

The virus has not been reported to cause illness in pigs in the United States, but it has been associated with illness in eight people in the states of California and Texas. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention also has reported that the same virus may be responsible for outbreaks of influenza in humans in Mexico.

The Pork Checkoff is recommending that pork producers implement biosecurity practices on their farms to prevent that this new strain of swine influenza does not enter the U.S. swine herd and to protect the health and safety of our industry's workers.

Consider including the following biosecurity practices for your farm:

- Limit the access of people to essential personnel (farm employees, veterinarians and essential service people);
- Implement policies that prevent employees presenting signs of flu-like illness from having contact with the pigs or other people on the operation;
- Prevent access of international visitors or people who have recently returned from international travel, particularly from travel to Mexico, into your operation;
- Implement a shower in-shower out procedure and the use of farm-specific clothing and footwear for employees entering the barns. At minimum, employees should don farm footwear and completely wash hands and arms before having contact with the pigs;
- Enforce heightened personal hygiene practices including frequent hand washing for all people in contact with pigs;
- Establish contact with the herd veterinarian to discuss other biosecurity practices that are merited by this event.

The importance of keen observation of the health and behavior of your animals cannot be understated and the Pork Checkoff recommends that you establish immediate contact with a swine veterinarian if you suspect that a disease may be present on your farm.

More information on influenza can be found in the fact sheet [Influenza: Pigs, people and public health](#). And, additional information on swine influenza and an update on the outbreak reported by the CDC can be found at [www.cdc.gov/flu/swine](http://www.cdc.gov/flu/swine).