

SWINE EXHIBITOR BIOSECURITY

The commingling of animals at an exhibition, show, or sale greatly increases the risk of disease spread. Implementing biosecurity measures to identify and handle sick animals will reduce the potential of disease spread.

BEFORE AN EXHIBITION OR SALE

- Talk with your veterinarian about:
 - Implementing biosecurity measures to reduce the chance of your pigs getting sick.
 - Creating an isolation plan on your farm for when pigs return from an event.
- Keep the veterinarian's phone number handy.
- Get a premises identification number (PIN) for your farm or the location where the pigs are housed.
- Make sure each animal has readable, required individual identification.
- Provide the following information to your veterinarian for health certificate completion and to meet exhibition requirements:
 - Your name, contact information, farm address, and PIN
 - Individual pig identification and physical description
 - Any exhibit-specific animal information requirements, such as vaccinations and disease testing
 - Check with the state veterinarian's office for specific requirements for that state
- Clean and disinfect all your equipment, including your show box and its contents, prior to the event.
- Do not go to the exhibition or sale if you or your pig is sick.



AT THE EXHIBITION OR SALE

- Keep your pets at home because they can spread pathogens that can make pigs sick.
- Evaluate your pig's health daily.
- Report any swine health issues to the event organizer (i.e., swine superintendent) or have the on-site veterinarian assess your pig.
- Keep your area clean and free of manure.
- Do not share equipment with other exhibitors.

IDENTIFYING AND RESPONDING TO A SICK PIG



- + Pigs that are sick may be off-feed, depressed, have diarrhea, a fever, nasal discharge, cough, or hard time breathing.
- + Take the pig's temperature (see the box on next page).
- + Contact your veterinarian if your pig becomes sick.

WHEN YOU RETURN HOME

Pigs exposed to pathogens during an event may not show signs of illness right away.

- Once home, place pigs in isolation to ensure they will not make your other pigs sick.
- Complete chores for the pigs in isolation as the last task of the day.
- Wear dedicated boots and clothing in the isolation area. This may include disposable coveralls and plastic boots that can be thrown away after the isolation period.
- Designate and use separate items such as buckets, feed pans, and trash cans in the isolation area.
- Monitor isolated pigs daily for signs of illness and contact your veterinarian if they become sick.
- After animals are placed in isolation, clean and disinfect any equipment, vehicles/ trailers, clothing, and footwear that were used at the event. Don't forget the show box.
- Check with your veterinarian for any disease testing recommendations before isolated pigs are placed with other pigs.
- Thoroughly clean, disinfect, and dry all items after use in the isolation area.

HOW DO I TAKE MY PIG'S TEMPERATURE?

- Restrain your pig to avoid injury to you or the pig.
- Use a thermometer to measure temperature:
 - **Digital:** insert into the rectum; push the button and wait for the beep; read the temperature
 - **Mercury:** shake down the thermometer so the red line is not showing; insert into the rectum of the pig and wait 30 seconds before reading the temperature
 - **Laser:** point the laser at the space on the skin behind the ear and read temperature; NOTE: Laser thermometers may not be as accurate as rectal thermometers

The normal temperature of a pig can be between 101.5° - 102.5° F.

During hot weather, a pig's temperature may be higher, since pigs can't sweat to cool off on hot days. If its temperature is raised, allow the pig to cool off and re-take the temperature in 15 minutes.

KEY POINTS

Biosecurity measures for disease prevention can take time to implement, but with careful planning, these steps can become part of the process and help prevent disease spread.

- Work with your veterinarian to ensure you have a biosecurity plan for your animals during the event.
- Do not take sick pigs to an event.
- Clean, disinfect, and dry all equipment and vehicles used to handle or transport animals.

Additional biosecurity recommendations for event organizers are available at porkcheckoff.org.