



STATE OF WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

P.O. Box 42560 • Olympia, Washington 98504-2560 • (360) 902-1800

**Swine Influenza and Exhibitions:  
Recommendations to Reduce Disease Risk  
From Dr. Amber Itle, Assistant State Veterinarian**

- Require all pigs to have official identification.
- Limit the time pigs are congregated, co-mingled, and held at an exhibition. Exhibition swine should not be kept on exhibition grounds longer than 72 hours.
- Consider only having terminal (market) swine classes and no breeding classes.
- Discourage “holdover pigs” held on exhibition grounds and exhibited in additional shows.
- Release pigs from exhibition grounds as soon as possible following their respective show(s).
- If offering both terminal (market) and breeding swine shows, schedule the terminal show after the breeding swine show or schedule a break between shows. Use this break to clean and disinfect the facility. If this cannot be done, separate market swine from breeding swine as stringently as possible.
- Locate longer-term swine exhibits (i.e. big boars, birthing center animals, rare breeds, display exhibits of pigs) away from where competition swine are housed.
- Clean and disinfect gates, chutes, sort panels, and any equipment used during weighing and identification procedures.
- Establish a relationship with a veterinarian who will be present or on call for the duration of the exhibition. The veterinarian will be responsible for monitoring animals for signs of illness, evaluating sick animals, and taking steps as warranted to ensure ill swine are removed from the exhibition area and isolated or sent home.
- Establish a protocol to remove sick swine from the exhibition area immediately.
- Become familiar with clinical signs of influenza and other pig illnesses (off feed, lethargic, fever, nasal discharge, discolored skin, lameness, mouth or nose blisters, diarrhea, cough, sneezing, etc.).
- Seek veterinary assistance if a pig becomes sick at an exhibition.
- Understand the risks to both humans and animals of taking a sick pig to a show. Sick pigs and sick people need to stay home so they do not risk infecting other pigs or people.
- House poultry and waterfowl exhibits well away from swine exhibits and do not allow poultry in swine facilities.

- To reduce the risk of development of a hybrid avian or swine influenza virus both highly contagious and highly pathogenic to humans, discourage exhibitors from exhibiting and/or handling both poultry and swine at the same exhibition.
- Provide signage to encourage exhibitors and fair visitors to wash hands and/or use provided hand sanitizer before and after entering poultry and livestock facilities.
- Recommend exhibitors provide at least seven days of “down time” (on-farm quarantine) after returning from a previous exhibition before taking a pig or its pen mates to another exhibition to reduce the risk of spreading influenza or other diseases. A 30 day on-farm quarantine of returning exhibition animals is preferred.

The State Veterinarian reserves the right to apply further restrictions if the swine influenza or other disease threat increases as fair season approaches. If you have any questions, please contact the Animal Services Division at (360) 902-1878 or [animalhealth@agr.wa.gov](mailto:animalhealth@agr.wa.gov). Thank you for doing your part to help insure the health of swine and the swine industry in Washington State.