

TAKE ACTION TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF FLU BETWEEN PEOPLE AND PIGS AT FAIRS

Pigs are commonly infected with swine influenza (swine flu) viruses that are usually different from human influenza viruses. While rare, influenza can spread from pigs to people and from people to pigs. When people get swine flu, it's usually after contact with pigs. This has happened in different settings, including fairs. Right now, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is concerned about a new influenza virus that has been found in U.S. pigs and has infected people too. This virus – called H3N2v when it infects people – may spread more easily to humans than is usual for swine flu viruses.

There are ways to reduce the spread of influenza viruses between pigs and people.

CDC recommends you:

- Wash your hands often with soap and running water before and after exposure to pigs. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand rub.
- Never eat, drink or put things in your mouth in pig areas, and don't take food or drink into pig areas.
- Never take toys, pacifiers, spill-proof cups, baby bottles, strollers or similar items into pig areas.
- Avoid close contact with pigs that look or act ill.
- Avoid contact with pigs if you are experiencing flu-like symptoms. Avoid contact for 7 days after symptoms begin or until you have been fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications, whichever is longer.
- Watch your pigs for signs of illness and call a veterinarian if you suspect they might be sick.
- Children younger than 5 years, people 65 years and older, pregnant women, and people with certain chronic medical conditions (like asthma, diabetes, heart disease, weakened immune systems, and neurological or neurodevelopmental conditions) are at high risk from serious complications if they get influenza. **These people should consider avoiding exposure to pigs and swine barns this fair season, especially if sick pigs have been identified.**
- Take appropriate protective measures if you must come in contact with pigs if you are experiencing flu-like symptoms, or if you must be in the vicinity of pigs known or suspected to be infected with influenza viruses. Protective measures include wearing protective clothing, gloves, masks that cover your mouth and nose, and other personal protective equipment. Always cover coughs and sneezes, and wash your hands often.

A seasonal flu vaccine will not protect people against H3N2v, but there are influenza antiviral drugs that can treat human H3N2v illness as well as infection with seasonal influenza viruses. These antiviral drugs must be prescribed by a physician. Early antiviral treatment is most effective for treating influenza, so see a physician as soon as illness hits.

For more information:

Telephone: 1-800-CDC-INFO (232-4636)/TTY: 1-888-232-63548

Email: cdcinfo@cdc.gov Web: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/swineflu/influenza-variant-viruses-h3n2v.htm>

August 9, 2012

National Center for Immunization & Respiratory Diseases
Influenza Division

