



Common Questions about HPAI Prevention in Pigs in Canada

This guide answers common questions from small-scale pig farmers about how to protect pigs from bird flu (also called Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza or HPAI). These tips help stop the disease from spreading between animals and keep your pigs healthy.

Transmission and Risks

01



What is Avian Influenza, and can it affect pigs?

HPAI is a highly contagious virus that primarily affects birds but can infect mammals, including pigs. Pigs are susceptible to swine, avian and human influenza viruses and are considered mixing vessels for the generation of new influenza viruses. Biosecurity is critical to prevent co-infection and transmission.

02



How can HPAI spread to pigs?

HPAI can spread to pigs through contact with sick birds or their droppings, contaminated feed, water, tools, or clothing, respiratory droplets, and contaminated dust in the air.

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Can wild birds pose a risk to pigs on my farm?

Yes, wild birds (mostly waterfowl) are a major source of HPAI. To prevent exposure and reduce attractants to wild birds, secure barns by bird-proofing windows, vents, and openings.

Prevention Strategies

04



What should pig farmers do to prevent HPAI?

- Regularly clean and disinfect equipment, vehicles, and clothing.
- Use dedicated footwear and clothing for pig housing areas.
- Provide clean feed and water.

05



Should I quarantine new pigs to prevent HPAI introduction?

Yes, new pigs should be quarantined for at least 14 -28 days and monitored for signs of illness before integrating with the herd.

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Are there any vaccination options for pigs against HPAI?

There are currently no vaccines approved in Canada for use in pigs against HPAI. Biosecurity and monitoring remain the primary prevention methods.

Clinical Signs and Monitoring

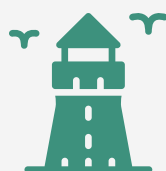
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What are the clinical signs of HPAI in pigs?

Signs include coughing, nasal discharge, fever, lethargy, reduced appetite, and rapid breathing. Regular health monitoring is essential.

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Why should pig farmers be concerned about bird flu?

Pigs can mix flu viruses from birds and people, which could increase the risk of new pandemic strains.

Prevention Strategies

09



What should I do if I suspect HPAI in my pigs?

Immediately isolate the affected animals, avoid farm movement, and report the suspect case to your veterinarian or the [Canadian Food Inspection Agency](#) (CFIA).

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Can humans working with pigs contract HPAI?

Some strains of avian influenza can infect humans. Farmers should wear personal protective equipment (PPE), practice hand hygiene, and minimize direct contact with sick animals. People working with animals that are susceptible to influenza viruses are encouraged to obtain their regular flu vaccinations to reduce the risk of co-infection and potential virus mutation.



AnimalHealthCanada

This document was produced by the Emergency Management Division of Animal Health Canada to enhance communication with smallholders on biosecurity issues in coordination with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, Canadian Animal Health Surveillance System, industry, provincial and territorial governments. For further assistance and biosecurity resources, contact info@animalhealthcanada.ca or visit www.animalhealthcanada.ca