

Indiana Board of Animal Health

(April 28, 2009)

General Key Messages:

1. The Indiana State Board of Animal Health (BOAH) works closely with pork producers, veterinarians and industry groups to educate them about ways to prevent the introduction and spread of diseases impacting animal and human health. This is why pork producers maintain strict biosecurity protections on their farms.
2. None of the human cases of this virus in the United States have been linked with direct contact with hogs.
3. This particular strain of H1N1 that has infected humans has not been identified in Indiana's swine population.
4. Producers who notice unusual clinical signs, including illness or deaths, in their swine herds should contact a veterinarian.
5. BOAH is working closely with Indiana veterinarians and laboratories to increase surveillance for any cases of this disease.

Consumer Food Safety Key Messages:

1. According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), humans cannot contract this novel strain of influenza from eating pork. As always, pork should be properly handled and prepared to a safe cooking temperature of 160 degrees Fahrenheit.
2. The U.S. food supply is the safest in the world. Hogs with obvious signs of illness, including swine flu, are rejected at inspection at processing and, therefore, do not become part of the human food supply.
3. This strain of H1N1 is a novel virus that has shown unique characteristics not normally seen in swine influenza viruses. This particular strain that is infecting humans has not been identified in Indiana's swine population.

Pet-Related Key Messages:

1. Like most warm-blooded species, pets can contract flu or flu-like infections.
2. Historically, dogs and cats have not been susceptible to this North American/human (H1N1) type of flu. Since this is a novel virus and little is known about this specific strain, no one can say for certain at this time if this virus will affect dogs and cats.
3. Pet owners should continue to maintain regular vaccinations for their animals that protect against flu and flu-like diseases. If an owner notices unusual clinical signs in his or her pet, as always, the animal should be seen by a veterinarian for appropriate care.

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