Minimizing Influenza Transmission during Exhibitions – Checklist for Protecting Guests, Exhibitors, and Pigs

Important Considerations

- Pigs may not show signs of illness
- People can infect pigs
- Pigs can infect people - exhibitors and guests
- Certain people are at higher risk of severe illness if they are around infected pigs
- Some people have died due to exposure to swine influenza at shows and fairs

The best practices described below are based on the Measures to Minimize Influenza Transmission at Swine Exhibitions, 2018

Preparation and Planning Prior to the Exhibition

☐ Establish an active response plan
  ☐ Maintain current contact information for all exhibitors
  ☐ Gather contact information: state animal health, state and/or local public health, and local veterinarian
    ☐ Check for after hour phone numbers of the key contacts
  ☐ Designate a chain of command and identify a spokesperson in case of an incident
  ☐ Use a record-keeping system to track vital information such as pig arrival/release, temperature and clinical signs, owner contact information, etc.

☐ Identify a veterinarian who will be present or on call for the duration of the exhibit
  ☐ Veterinarian should be equipped to sample pigs with signs of influenza

☐ Post signage at the entrance of the exhibition that includes the following messages:
  ☐ All animals can carry germs that make people sick
  ☐ Some people are more likely to get sick and may become severely ill: babies and children under 5 years of age, pregnant women, older adults, and people with weakened immune systems or chronic illnesses
  ☐ Wash your hands with soap and water right after visiting the animals
  ☐ No food, drinks, baby bottles, pacifiers, toys or strollers in animal areas
  ☐ Make sure kids don’t put their finger or other things in their mouth

☐ Place hand washing stations and hand washing signage at exits
  ☐ Plan for restocking supplies - paper towels, soap, and running water

☐ Identify a temporary isolation area for ill animals

☐ Limit the time pigs are held at the facility
  ☐ Whenever possible, pigs should be kept no more than 72 hours; discourage holdover pigs
  ☐ Locate long term pigs (i.e. big boars and birthing center pigs) away from areas where short term pigs are housed
  ☐ Consider the order of the show schedule
    ☐ Terminal pigs last

☐ Gather basic supplies such as disinfectants, thermometers, gloves, masks, and booties
☐ Locate food service areas away from animal barns
☐ Clean and disinfect the barn prior to the animals coming in
  ☐ Pens, gates, chutes, sort panels, scales, feeders, waterers
Show-time Essentials

☐ Conduct a pre-show meeting with exhibitors including adult supervisors, parents, 4-H leaders, and FFA instructors
  ☐ How to monitor and report sick pigs
  ☐ How to monitor and report sick exhibitors
  ☐ Possibility for emergency changes in arrival/release dates/times
  ☐ Appropriate hygiene and biosecurity practices for both personnel and animals such as washing hands, not sharing equipment, not sleeping in the animal areas, and maintaining clean animals

☐ Monitor weather forecast
  ☐ Extreme heat conditions:
    ☐ Alter schedule to minimize heat stress (i.e. arrival/release during overnight, early release, etc.)
    ☐ Control ambient temperature by increasing ventilation with fans and consider using other methods for cooling such as sprinklers on the roof

☐ Record keeping of animals and exhibitors:
  ☐ 24-hour contact information for exhibitors
  ☐ Animal identification
  ☐ Arrival tracking
  ☐ Stalling location
  ☐ Release tracking

In the Event of an Outbreak or Other Health Event

☐ Notify and work with:
  ☐ Show veterinarian
  ☐ Animal health officials- State veterinarian
  ☐ State or local health department

☐ Implement biosecurity protocol
  ☐ Limit access to pigs and barn area, especially to people at high risk
  ☐ Use personal protective equipment
  ☐ Plan for sick and/or dead animal removal
  ☐ Testing plan for sick pigs and sick people
  ☐ Cleaning and disinfecting procedures checklist
  ☐ Hold sick market pigs until they recover

☐ Establish regular communication with authorities, industry representatives, and media
  ☐ Identify official spokesperson
  ☐ Identify person to facilitate communications with the show/fair, industry, public health officials, and animal health authorities and to coordinate messaging with these entities

☐ Maintain good record keeping, isolation logs, and monitoring of pig health (temperature and health condition)

Preparation and Planning After the Exhibition

☐ Review and reflect on procedures and activities during exhibition
  ☐ Plan for future exhibitions based on outcome
    ☐ Focus on improving areas where there was a lack of planning and execution
    ☐ Focus on new information learned from exhibitors, event organizers, public health and animal health authorities

☐ Clean and disinfect animal areas and equipment