

African Swine Fever Virus

African swine fever virus is continuing its spread throughout Asia – NSW Preparedness Update

Summary

African swine fever (ASF) is a highly contagious viral disease of pigs with no cure available. The current strain impacting globally is highly virulent. The spread of ASF globally has increased the need for Australia and NSW to be prepared at all levels of the supply chain. This update provides information to veterinarians about actions being taken and resources available to assist them in being part of those preparations.

Veterinarians who suspect African swine fever in pigs must report it to the 24-hour Emergency Animal Disease Watch Hotline on **1800 675 888** or the Local Land Services on **1300 795 299** (during business hours).

For information on ASF clinical presentation and laboratory sampling, please see:

[African swine fever – A guide for veterinarians](#)

NSW DPI Primefact 1710 – [African swine fever \(ASF\) investigation](#)

NSW DPI Primefact 955 - [Recognising exotic diseases of pigs](#)

Global Situation update

In 2019 ASF continued its spread throughout South-East Asia, with confirmed cases reported in Mongolia, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Hong Kong, Myanmar, North Korea, South Korea, the Philippines, Timor Leste and Indonesia – North Sumatra. In January 2020 an outbreak was confirmed in Bali as well as in Greece. Disease detections have continued in Sierra Leone, Moldova, South Korea, Myanmar, Ukraine, Vietnam, Cambodia, The Phillipines and Timor Leste despite these countries' implementing emergency response actions.

These international events highlight the importance of maintaining good biosecurity practices both at borders and on farm.

Risk to Australia

There have been no reported cases of ASF in Australia. The proximity of the Timor-Leste and Indonesian African swine fever outbreaks significantly increases the risk of an outbreak in

Australia. Reports of infected meat at the border continue, and also increase the risk of disease entry into Australia. An outbreak would be devastating for our pig production and health. It would also damage our trade and the economy.

The Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment is strengthening biosecurity measures to protect Australia from ASF. To manage the risk of ASF, they have increased border activities, introduced stronger penalties for non-compliance, are testing pork products seized at international airports and mail centres amongst other measures to increase preparedness. Imported pork products must be treated under specific conditions to inactivate the ASF virus or sourced from ASF-free countries or zones. Imported Jerky, biltong and other smallgoods containing pork are not permitted into Australia. Further information on what the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment are doing to keep ASF out of Australia is available on their [website](#).

African swine fever prevention and preparedness in NSW

NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI), Local Land Services and the pork industry are working together to prevent ASF in pigs in NSW as well as preparing to respond if an outbreak occurs.

This work includes:

- Meeting with pork producers around the state in conjunction with Australian Pork Limited and NSW Farmers Association to raise general awareness and also discuss preparedness activities that the industry should be undertaking, such as farm biosecurity plans.
- Producing a variety of communications materials that can be shared in both traditional media and social media platforms that help inform the general public, including overseas visitors and students, non-English speaking background residents, hunters, food retail outlets and pet pig owners.
- Working with the other states and territories through the Animal Health Committee to ensure that there is a national direction to the preparedness and response. An update of the African Swine Fever AUSVETPLAN manual is part of this national response effort.

Call for expression of interest from veterinarians who could do field work in the event of an ASF response

A NSW government E-tender is open to vets and veterinary practices to register their interest to do field work in the event of an ASF response at <https://tenders.nsw.gov.au/?event=public.rft.show&RFTUID=99C85A26-A713-8566-B78890BC7B609B29>. The full terms and conditions can be viewed after logging onto the E-tender site. Those who are interested will then need to complete a registration survey that records their contact details, experience, training and information on how they could assist.

The aim of this process is to make sure that vets can be quickly deployed to do field operations such as sampling and assessing pigs. The Department will engage veterinarians that have been appointed to the Panel as required. Engagement will have regard to location, availability, background and experience. For further information email animal.biosecurity@dpi.nsw.gov.au.



Further Information

If you suspect a case of African swine fever, call the Emergency Animal Disease Watch Hotline on 1800 675 888

[Animal Health Australia - Current situation with African swine fever \(ASF\)](#)

[NSW DPI African Swine Fever information for vets webpage](#)

[NSW DPI Biosecurity guidelines for pig producers](#)

[The CSIRO Emergency animal diseases: A field guide for Australian veterinarians](#)

[ASF virus factsheet – Centre for Food Security and Public Health](#)

[Ausvetplan – African swine fever Version 4.1](#)

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