



AFRICAN SWINE FEVER OVERVIEW

AFRICAN SWINE FEVER

- African swine fever is a contagious virus that affects pigs and wild pigs.
- The disease is not currently in Canada.
- Humans cannot catch ASF from infected pigs nor can they contract the disease by eating meat from a pig infected with ASF.
- No treatment or vaccine currently exists for this virus.
- The disease can spread through direct or indirect contact and often causes high mortality. The virus is not airborne.
- The virus can persist for a long time in the environment, carcasses and in a variety of pork products.
- ASF is recognized by the global veterinary society as one of the major world threats to pig production, food security and biodiversity.

Humans can spread the disease and infect pigs in many ways:

- if they have been in a contaminated area, they can carry the virus on their clothes, footwear, and vehicles;
- through the feed they use for their pigs, if it has been imported from countries where ASF is present and not processed accordingly.
- if they feed contaminated kitchen scraps to pigs.

Prevention is key!

- Routinely evaluate biosecurity protocols with farm staff and visitors.
- Don't bring pork products onto farm premises and ensure people who have travelled abroad are aware of the dangers of ASF.
- All pig owners should keep their animals away from wild pigs. They could be carriers of many diseases.

African swine fever is a robust virus, and harder than Porcine epidemic diarrhea (PED). The virus is stable over a wide range of temperatures and pH. It can survive putrefaction, aging meat, cooking, smoking, curing, air drying, salting and freezing.

The virus can remain infectious for:

- 11 days in feces
- Months in bone marrow
- 15 weeks in chilled meat
- 3-6 months in cured hams that have not reached high-temperature cooking
- Up to several years in frozen meat.

SIGNS OF AFRICAN SWINE FEVER IN PIGS



Images: Dr. C.A.L. Oura via MERCK Veterinary Manual

- High fever ($>40^{\circ}\text{C}$)
- Weakness and difficulty standing
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea (may be bloody)
- Blotchy patches (particularly around ears, snout and hindquarters)
- Coughing or labored breathing
- In sow barns: miscarriage, abortions, stillbirths, and weak litters can occur
- High proportions of the animals with the disease will die within 10 days.

The incubation period of African swine fever is 5-15 days. If a pig survives the infection they can shed virus for up to 6 months.

DIAGNOSIS

The recognition and diagnosis of African swine fever can be difficult as it looks like other septicemic diseases. Laboratory testing by CFIA is required to confirm the diagnosis.

TRANSMISSION

The virus is transmitted from oral and nasal exposure through direct or indirect contact.

- Directly by contact of infected pigs with healthy pigs.
- Indirectly by contact with the virus from excretions, secretions, and infected tissues including the ingestion of contaminated pork or meat products, contaminated swill or kitchen waste, contaminated fomites such as feed, vehicles and footwear.

Biological vectors such as soft ticks can propagate this disease and other vectors, such as stable flies may also be involved in virus transmission.



More information about African swine fever can be found at www.cpc-ccp.com/african-swine-fever