

If You Suspect Influenza Infection in Your Herd

Influenza infection in pigs results in clinical signs of respiratory disease including coughing, sneezing, nasal discharge, fever, lethargy and reddening of eyes. Disease usually spreads rapidly in susceptible groups of pigs and the mortality rate is generally low if general health status is good. However, if underlying health problems are present, clinical signs can be more severe with a longer recovery period and mortality rates can be higher.

If your pigs are showing clinical signs of influenza, it is recommended you discuss further testing with your vet to determine if influenza virus is present.

Testing for influenza in pigs is free.

Your vet can submit samples for influenza testing to Veterinary Laboratories Agency and to Scottish Agricultural College Veterinary Laboratories.

It will take approximately three working days to determine if influenza infection is present and up to a further 10 working days to determine the strain of influenza.

While you are waiting for test results, you should implement the measures outlined in the '**Managing Influenza in your herd**' section of the '**Influenza in Pigs: Code of Practice**' to limit the risk of possible onward transmission.

Information on testing what samples should be submitted can be found at:

- http://www.defra.gov.uk/vla/diseases/docs/dis_si_info.pdf
- <http://www.sac.ac.uk/consulting/services/s-z/veterinary/?ff=y>

It is especially important to submit samples for influenza testing in the following situations:

You, or anyone else in contact with your pigs, develop clinical signs of influenza and the pigs show signs of influenza at a similar time.

A farm with which you have contact (through personnel, pigs or equipment) is known to have cases of influenza in pigs and your pigs are showing clinical signs of influenza.

The more quickly influenza is identified in pigs, the better the chance of preventing onward spread.

