

May 4, 2009



Manitoba Pork Council
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Dear Manitoba Pork Producer:

On Saturday, May 2, 2009, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) and Public Health Authority of Canada (PHAC) announced that a pig farm in Alberta has been quarantined because the H1N1 influenza virus was detected in the herd. An outside worker returned from a vacation in Mexico and worked in the barn before any public awareness of a disease outbreak. He showed flu-like symptoms and flu symptoms later showed up in the pig herd. No pigs have died and all animals in the barn are recovering.

First, I want to remind you that this is a single farm in Alberta, a farrow-to-finish operation that neither purchases animals from other farms, nor sells animals to other farms. I would also like to applaud the producer, his veterinarian and the authorities for doing the right thing. From all available information, it appears that as soon as the producer noted flu-like symptoms in his herd, he notified his vet and the vet sent samples to provincial authorities. CFIA has put a tight surveillance zone around this farm, and animal health surveillance systems across Canada are at a high level of alert. The system has so far worked as it should.

Here in Manitoba, our priority must be to prevent this virus from entering swine herds.

Continue with a heightened level of biosecurity.

- **Keep unnecessary people and visitors out of your barn;**
- **Keep barn workers with flu-like symptoms away from your operation; and**
- **Implement the highest level of personal hygiene measures such as hand washing and showering.**

Meanwhile, the international scientific community, including the World Animal Health Organization (OIE) and World Health Organization (WHO) agree that H1N1 Influenza A is not a food safety issue. Properly cooked pork is safe to eat.

Despite this, you may have heard that several countries have announced bans on imports of Canadian, US (some states only) and Mexican pork. US Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack has assured federal Agriculture Minister Gerry Ritz that Canadian producers will continue to have access to the US market.

Should you have any more questions about the appearance of H1N1 flu in one herd in Alberta, or anything else related to this subject, please call your district director or the Manitoba Pork Council office at 204-237-7447 or toll-free 1-888-893-7447.

Hang in there. We will continue to keep you as well informed as possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karl Kynoch". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Karl Kynoch, Chairman
Manitoba Pork Council