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Novel H1N1 Flu Virus – Mitigation Recommendations for Fairs and Exhibitions

Contact with swine, whether directly or indirectly, at fairs and exhibitions by exhibitors, the public and fair/management staff presents an opportunity for the potential for spread of serious diseases between animals and people as well as between people and animals.....especially to visitors who attend these events. Although complete elimination of all disease transmission risks are not possible, there are some basic recommendations that can be implemented by fair staff/management that will minimize the potential for exposure to and spread of Novel Influenza H1N1 flu virus in such settings. The following risk management recommendations are made to help staff/management mitigate an outbreak of this potential serious zoonotic disease at fairs and exhibitions.

General Risk Management Practices.

- **Human Illness.** Exhibitors, fair staff/management, volunteers and visitors that have flu-like symptoms should not be around swine for a minimum of seven (7) days after all symptoms have resolved.
- **Swine Illness.** Swine exhibiting respiratory signs will not be allowed into the fair. Swine exhibiting respiratory signs during the event will be immediately returned home.

Fair Staff/Management – Risk Management Recommendations.

- **Weigh-In.**
 - Check swine prior to offloading. If clinical signs of respiratory disease are found, do not allow the animal or exposed animals to offload.
 - Keep scales and walkways free of manure and other waste. Clean and disinfect area after removal.
 - Keep waste containers and waste removal equipment away from high traffic areas.

- **Swine Barn and Exhibition Area.**

- No food or drinks allowed in barn and exhibition area.
- Monitor health status of swine several times daily.
- Maintain facilities in clean and sanitary condition at all times....especially in areas accessed by the public.
- Implement measures to increase separation of the public from the swine six (6) feet or more is recommended.
- Maintain waste disposal sites away from public access. Store animal waste and specific tools for waste removal in areas restricted from public access.
- Wipe down and sanitize public access areas (handrails, fences, hand-washing equipment, etc.) daily.
- Encourage hand washing after contact with swine or other animals and their environment and provide easy access to multiple hand-washing stations.
- Market swine should not come in contact with breeder swine (if present). If breeder and market shows are held, hold the market show after the breeder show.
- Fair staff/management and volunteers should wash hands frequently and change soiled clothing as needed. Hand-washing stations should be readily accessible for staff and volunteers. Staff and volunteers working in the animal areas should not be in contact with visitors or working in non-animal areas.
- Establish transition areas between non-animal and animal areas. Establishing transition areas through which the public pass when entering and exiting animal areas is critical. One-way visitor flow is preferred with separate entrances and exits.
 - Entrance Transition Areas. These areas should be designed to facilitate education of the public by posting appropriate signage, handout material, etc. (See attached examples of signage for this area).
 - Exit Transition Areas. These areas should be designed to facilitate hand-washing stations with appropriate signage to encourage such prior to leaving the area. (See attached examples of signage for this area.) Empty trash containers frequently and keep supply of paper towels, water and soap available at all times.
 - Animal Areas.
 - Control traffic to prevent overcrowding.
 - Implement measures to increase separation of visitors from the swine and discourage visitors from petting or touching the swine. Keeping visitors six (6) feet or more from swine is recommended.
 - No food or drink allowed in barn or exhibition area. (See attached examples of signage for this area).
 - Promptly remove any waste material from this area.

- **Post-Exhibition Recommendations.**

- Do a complete clean-out of the barn and exhibition area.
- Do a thorough cleaning of these areas followed by a complete cleaning and disinfection.

- Clean and disinfect all pens, panels, railings, hand-washing equipment and other equipment before storage.

Swine Exhibitors – Risk Management Recommendations.

- No food or drink in the barn or exhibition area.
- Keep walkways free of animal waste and soiled bedding.
- Report signs of animal illness to fair staff/management immediately.
- Keep animal's bedding area dry, remove soiled bedding and replace with fresh bedding as needed.
- Avoid transporting manure and soiled bedding through non-animal and transitional areas.
- Keep waste removal equipment and receptacles away from high traffic areas.
- Wash hands frequently and change soiled clothing as needed.

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