

TAKE ACTION to Prevent the Spread of Flu Between Pigs and People

Pigs can be infected with their own influenza (flu) type A viruses (called swine influenza A viruses) that are usually different from human influenza A viruses. While rare, influenza A viruses can spread from pigs to people and from people to pigs. When people get infected with influenza A viruses from pigs, it's usually after contact with pigs. This has happened in different settings, including fairs. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends people take the following actions to help prevent the spread of influenza A viruses between pigs and people.



Recommendations for Fair Exhibitors at Higher Risk of Serious Flu Complications:

- [Anyone at higher risk of serious flu complications](#) planning to attend a setting where pigs will be present should avoid pigs and swine barns.
- People who are at higher risk of serious flu complications include children younger than 5 years, people 65 years and older, pregnant people, and people with certain long-term health conditions (like asthma and other lung disease, diabetes, heart disease, weakened immune systems, and neurological or neurodevelopmental conditions).

- If people at higher risk cannot avoid exposure to pigs, they should wear a well-fitting mask that covers the nose and mouth (e.g., an N95 respirator or KN95 respirator if available, or if not available, a surgical mask) to reduce the risk of exposure to influenza A viruses from pigs.
- People at higher risk for flu complications who develop flu symptoms should call a health care provider. Tell them about any risk factors that put you at higher risk for serious flu complications and any exposure to pigs or swine barns you've had recently. Seasonal flu vaccines are not formulated to protect people against influenza A viruses that commonly spread in pigs, but prescription influenza antiviral drugs can treat infections with these viruses in people.

There are ways to reduce the spread of influenza viruses between pigs and people

CDC Recommendations for People Not at Higher Risk for Serious Flu Complications:

- Don't take food or drink into pig areas; don't eat, drink, or put anything in your mouth in pig areas.
- Don't take toys, pacifiers, cups, baby bottles, strollers, or similar items into pig areas.
- Wash your hands often with soap and running water before and after exposure to pigs. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand rub.
- To further reduce the risk of infection, minimize contact with pigs in the pig barn or arenas.
- Avoid close contact with pigs that look or act ill.



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- Take protective measures if you must come in contact with pigs that are known or suspected to be sick. This includes minimizing contact with pigs and wearing personal protective equipment like protective clothing, gloves, and well-fitted masks that cover your mouth and nose (e.g., an N95 respirator or KN95 respirator if available, or if not available, a surgical mask) when contact is required.
- Watch your pig (if you have one) for illness. Call a veterinarian if you suspect illness.
- Avoid contact with pigs if you have flu symptoms. Wait to have contact with pigs until 7 days after your illness started or until you have been without fever for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications, whichever is longer. If you must have contact with pigs while you are sick, take the protective actions listed above.
- People who develop flu symptoms should call a health care provider. Tell them about any risk factors that put you at higher risk for serious flu complications and any exposure to pigs or swine barns you've had recently. The same influenza antiviral drugs used to treat seasonal influenza illness can be used to treat illness caused by human infection with an influenza A virus from pigs. Antiviral treatment works best when started soon after symptoms begin.

