

# PED biosecurity briefing for the allied pig industry

SOP 14

## What is it?

Porcine epidemic diarrhoea (PED) is a gastro-intestinal disease of pigs caused by a coronavirus and new severe outbreaks have emerged in the USA and China. It poses no risk to humans.

The outbreak in the USA has affected 39 states since first identified on May 17, 2013 with a peak of cases in spring 2014. PED continues to be identified on US premises although the number of new cases has remained stable since the height of the outbreak. The US strain of PED is more aggressive than strains seen previously in the UK with mortality of 50 to 100% of affected piglets being experienced on infected US pig farms. In China more than a million piglets have died in an outbreak which started in October 2010. The virus from the outbreak in the US is said to be 99.4% similar to that from China. The UK industry must be vigilant and maintain good biosecurity. **There are no severe outbreaks in the UK currently – keeping it out is key.**



Figure 1 and 2. Runt piglets, vomiting, wasting and diarrhoea typical of PED in current outbreaks in Asia.

Images courtesy of pig333.com

## What is needed from the allied pig industry?

Some of the following biosecurity protocols can be implemented when entering the farm to minimise the risk of spreading all diseases.

Farm deliveries:

- All vehicles entering the farm should be properly cleaned and disinfected and allow time to dry. **It is vitally important that no faecal contamination is present on the vehicle as this is one of the main transmission routes of enteric diseases such as swine dysentery.** Particular importance should be paid to areas that come in contact with the farm such as lorry driver's boots (cab foot wells), equipment (feed pipes, driving boards etc.) and loading ramps.
- Any PPE used should be properly cleaned and disinfected. Ideally the farm should supply proper PEE for the driver such as disposable boots and overalls for vehicles delivering feed and proper waterproof trousers and boots for vehicles collecting pigs.
- Under no circumstances should a driver enter a pig building and should avoid heavily contaminated areas if at all possible
- Wheels and wheel arches should be disinfected prior to and leaving the farm.
- Disease status of all farms should be known so that deliveries of feed or collection of live or dead pigs is scheduled at the end of the week for disease positive farms.

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## Overseas visits:

- Only absolutely essential visitors from overseas should be allowed onto pig farms and they must have entered Britain at least three days before the visit. Only unit clothing and footwear should be worn on the unit
- Similarly, if you are returning from overseas yourself, allow three days before considering yourself “pig-free”
- Please ensure all your staff and colleagues are aware of the risks posed by the new strains of Porcine Epidemic Diarrhoea virus and that they comply with all biosecurity measures if visiting British pig units.

## Also:

- Encourage all pig-keepers to contact their vet if they see unusual clinical problems with diarrhoea, particularly in piglets
- Be prepared to check the provenance of nutritional products used on farm, and consider whether any might pose an unacceptable risk.

For more guidance and to keep updated on PED in the US visit:

<http://pork.ahdb.org.uk/health-welfare/health/emerging-diseases/pedv/>