

# Reporting suspect PED outbreaks

PED 2

## Porcine Epidemic Diarrhoea is now a NOTIFIABLE disease in England

This means that if you keep pigs in England and you or your vet suspect that your pigs have an outbreak of Porcine Epidemic Diarrhoea (PED), you are now legally required to report this to the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) as detailed in this guidance.

### To report a suspect PED outbreak

If your pigs are kept in England call the Defra Rural Services Helpline on **03000 200 301** and **select options for APHA, and then the option to report notifiable disease.**

In working hours (Monday to Friday 8:30 to 17:00, weekdays, excluding public holidays) you will be put through to an APHA member of staff on the notifiable disease report team.

If you call out of hours (Monday to Friday 17:00 to 8:30, weekends and public holidays), you will need to select the option for your region of the country in order to be put in contact with the regional duty vet.

You then need to explain that you are reporting suspicion of porcine epidemic diarrhoea and will be asked questions about:

- The owner of the pigs
- The vet practice
- The location of the affected pigs
- Clinical and other details about the disease outbreak.

Please have the following information available when you call:

- Telephone number, name and address of the owner and vet
- CPH and postcode where the pigs are kept.

**If the pigs are in Scotland:** Contact Quality Meat Scotland via the Scottish Pig Disease Control Centre (SPDCC). Telephone: 01466 705 247

**If the pigs are in Wales:** PED is not a notifiable disease in Wales. You should contact your vet who can get testing advice from the APHA Veterinary Investigation Centre in Carmarthen.

<http://apha.defra.gov.uk/vet-gateway/surveillance/diagnostic/national-network.htm#carm>

Further information is available at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/porcine-epidemic-diarrhoea-how-to-spot-and-report-the-disease>

### What happens after suspect PED has been reported to APHA?

#### A) Diagnostic testing

At the time of reporting, you will be provided with a disease reference number. Once the disease has been reported to APHA, it is very important that you work with your vet to ensure prompt diagnostic testing to confirm the diagnosis, or rule it out. In order to access testing which is provided free of charge at APHA, it is essential that the disease reference number you are given is used to identify the samples from pigs with diarrhoea which are sent for testing.

The way to access this testing is described in guidance found on this link:

<http://pork.ahdb.org.uk/media/274786/sop-2-1-suspect-ped-outbreaks-samples-for-testing-211215.pdf>

#### B) Sharing information with AHDB pork

The legislation allows APHA to share the owner, farm identity, location and contact details of suspect PED cases with AHDB pork to allow guidance to be provided to pig keepers so industry can provide advice on measures to control the spread of the disease. The legislation does not include powers to introduce statutory movement controls, restriction on trade or culling of pigs.

#### C) Implementation of control measures

While waiting for the results of diagnostic testing, it is vital that control measures are instituted on the affected pig unit to prevent the spread of PED virus if the outbreak is confirmed as PED. There is information about what immediate actions are advised for control of PED on the AHDB Pork Website:

#### Clinical signs expected in a PED outbreak

Pig keepers concerned about clinical signs of diarrhoea in their pigs are advised to immediately consult their vet to discuss whether it could be a case of suspect PED which should be reported. Bear in mind that if no diarrhoea is being seen, that pig deaths are more likely to be due to a different disease.

Case definition suspect PED: **An outbreak of unusual or rapidly spreading diarrhoea in pigs of any age**

The following additional information will help pig keepers and vets recognise suspect PED:

- **Diarrhoea spreads rapidly in a group of pigs over a few days**
- **High proportion of pigs in a group develop diarrhoea (50% and more)**
- **High mortality (30-100%) in sucking piglets if due to a virulent strain of PED**
- **Disease can affect any age of pig**
- **The diarrhoea tends to be watery**
- Diarrhoea in older pigs is transient and they recover
- Sometimes pigs also show reduced appetite and lethargy
- Sometimes pigs also vomit.

For further advice please contact [pighealth@ahdb.org.uk](mailto:pighealth@ahdb.org.uk) or visit <https://pork.ahdb.org.uk/health-welfare/health/emerging-diseases/pedv/>