

## REPORTING SUSPECT PORCINE EPIDEMIC DIARRHOEA OUTBREAKS GUIDANCE TO PIG KEEPERS AND VETS

### **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.

### **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

### **To report a suspect PED outbreak**

Call the Defra Rural Services Helpline on 03000 200 301 and then press 1 to select APHA.

In working hours (Monday to Friday 8:30 to 17:00, weekdays, excluding public holidays) then select option 1 to report the disease and 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, vet practice, location of the affected pigs and clinical and other details about the disease outbreak. Please have the telephone number, name and address of the owner and vet, including CPH and postcode where the pigs are kept, available when you call.

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

#### **a) Diagnostic testing**

You will be called back with an APHA veterinary investigation centre submission number if you report during working hours. 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. The way to access this testing is described in guidance found on this link: [Click here SAMPLING GUIDANCE.](#)

#### **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 disease. The legislation does not include powers to introduce statutory movement controls, restrictions 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 any 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: [www.pedv.co.uk](http://www.pedv.co.uk)