



HELP PREVENT THE SPREAD of Flu Between Humans and Animals!

Did you know humans can give pigs the flu and vice versa?

Pigs are able to get sick with human, avian, and swine influenza strains, and can be infected with one or more at the same time. When this happens, there is a risk of the avian or swine flu viruses combining with human flu resulting in a new strain with pandemic potential. This is what was thought to have occurred in the 1918, 1957, 1968, and 2009 influenza pandemics. Currently, there is an outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) affecting wild birds, mammals, and farm animals such as chickens and cows. The risk of viral mutation in cows is unknown at this time. Given the scope of avian influenza transmission among farm animals and wildlife, there is a risk of viral mutation through pigs. As a community, we are relying on one another to help reduce the risk of HPAI mutating to spread amongst people as much as possible. One way to do this is to decrease the chance of allowing a mutation to happen in pigs.

Here are some precautions to take while visiting the fair:

- Avoid contact with pigs if you have flu symptoms.
- People at high risk for serious flu complications avoid pigs and swine barns at fairs.
- Do not 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.
- Avoid close contact with pigs that look or act ill.
- Wash your hands often with soap and running water before and after exposure to pigs or their environments. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand rub.
- Watch your pig (if you have one) for illness. Call a veterinarian if you suspect illness in your pig.
- If you must work around sick people or pigs, use appropriate personal protective equipment such as gloves and a face mask or respirator.



Flu Can Spread Between Pigs and People CDC/USDA Infographic



The Threat of Pandemic Influenza: Are We Ready?



Past Flu Pandemics