

Questions & Answers: Swine Enteric Coronavirus Diseases Monitoring and Control Program

In response to the significant impact swine enteric coronavirus diseases (SECD), including Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea (PEDv) and Porcine deltacoronavirus (PDCoV), are having on the U.S. pork industry, USDA issued a Federal Order on June 5, 2014. USDA also announced \$26.2 million in emergency funding to combat these diseases. On January 4, 2016, the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) issued a revised Federal Order to more effectively use remaining emergency funding.

The revised Federal Order eliminates the herd plan requirement, as well as reimbursement to veterinarians for completing those plans. It also eliminates reimbursement for biosecurity actions, like truck washing.

SECD remains a reportable disease, which means that producers, veterinarians, and diagnostic laboratories are required to report all cases of SECD to USDA or State animal health officials. The reporting criteria are unchanged in the updated Federal Order.

Reporting

Q. What information needs to be reported to USDA?

A. If a herd is affected with an SECD, it must be reported by producers, veterinarians and laboratory personnel to USDA or State animal health officials. The report must contain the following:

- A premises identification number (PIN or alternate);
- Date the sample was collected;
- Type of unit being sampled (sow, nursery, finisher);
- Test methods used to make the diagnosis;
- Diagnostic test results.

Q. How quickly do I need to report an affected herd?

A. An affected herd must be reported as soon as you know the herd is infected, whether through positive laboratory test results or other knowledge of infection.

Q. How do I report an affected herd?

A. Report affected herds through existing channels to the USDA Assistant Director or the state animal health official. Laboratories will also submit their reports through the Laboratory Messaging System.

Q. Is the data reported to USDA secure and confidential?

A. Yes. USDA will use all applicable authorities to protect information it collects.

Q. Is it subject to FOIA?

A. USDA will seek to protect producer information to the fullest extent of the law.

Herd Management Plans

Q. Is USDA requiring herd management plans?

A. No, the revised Federal Order, issued January 4, 2016, eliminated the herd plan requirement.

Q. What will you do if producers don't comply with reporting requirements?

A. Regulatory action may be taken if producers, veterinarians or laboratories do not comply with the Federal Order requirements of reporting. These actions could include official warnings, sanctions, penalties, fines or specific requirements to move pigs off affected farms.

Q. Is USDA requiring specific biosecurity steps/practices at affected sites?

A. Biosecurity and cleaning and disinfecting guidelines are important disease control and prevention practices, but we will not require specific actions. We will rely on the expertise of the herd veterinarian to determine best practices for an individual farm or site.

We will work with producers and veterinarians over a period of time to determine those biosecurity and other management practices that are most effective in preventing spread of the viruses.

Q. Will affected premises be quarantined by USDA or State animal health authorities?

A. Affected premises will not be quarantined and will not have movement restrictions applied.

Authority

Q. What authority is USDA using to mandate these actions?

A. APHIS has broad authority under the Animal Health Protection Act of 2002 (AHPA) to protect animal health in the United States. Reporting for SECD will be used to determine which herds are affected with the disease.

Costs

Q. What will the \$26.2 million be used for?

A. The \$26.2 million was originally to be used for a variety of activities to support producers and combat these diseases, including:

- \$3.9 million to be used by USDA's Agricultural Research Service (ARS) to support the development of vaccines
- \$2.4 million to cooperative agreement funding for States to support management and control activities
- \$500,000 to herd veterinarians to help with development and monitoring of herd management plans and sample collection
- \$11.1 million in cost-share funding for producers of infected herds to support biosecurity practices.
- \$2.4 million to private sector veterinarians for diagnostic testing
- \$1.5 million to National Animal Health Laboratory Network diagnostic laboratories for genomic sequencing for newly positive herds

The revised federal order focuses the remaining funds on diagnostic testing.

Q: Will there be compensation for developing a herd plan, disease control and biosecurity requirements?

A: We will honor all appropriate claims for work completed on January 3, 2016 and prior. Invoices must be submitted within 30 days of work being completed.

Q. Is USDA paying indemnity for pigs that die as a result of infection with PEDv?

A. No. None of the livestock disaster programs can provide assistance to producers due to limitations within the statute.

- The Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) only covers deaths due to adverse weather or attacks by animals.

- The Livestock Forage Program (LFP) provides assistance to producers who suffered forage losses due drought or fire.
- The Emergency Assistance Program for Livestock, Honey Bees and Farm Raised Fish (ELAP) provides emergency assistance to eligible producers due to disease, adverse weather or other conditions not covered by LFP and LIP. While technically this could be a potential pot of money to use, payments are capped at \$20 million per fiscal year.

Roles

Q. What role will producers play?

A. Producers will work with their herd veterinarians to maintain the health of their animals. If PEDv or related disease is found, the producer will work with animal health officials as needed to provide required reporting.

Q. What role will veterinarians play?

A. Veterinarians are on the front line working with the producer to maintain the health of their animals, and to address illness if it strikes. Specific herd-level biosecurity and disease control plans for affected herds are developed and managed by herd veterinarians.

Q. What role will industry play?

A. Industry will lead efforts to educate and train veterinarians, producers, haulers, and packer/processors to enhance disease preparedness, recognition, and response. Industry will also take the lead in determining best practices for disease control and biosecurity.

Q. What role will veterinary diagnostic laboratories play?

A. The National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN) laboratories will continue to play a crucial role in the testing and reporting of these diseases. The laboratories will require premises identification numbers (PIN or an alternate) for SECD samples to be tested.

Q. What role will the States play?

A. States will actively work with producers and industry in their States to manage disease, supporting biosecurity and disease control protocols. States will also work with laboratory officials and officials in neighboring states on program activities.

Q. What role will USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) play?

A. APHIS officials will support disease monitoring, and data integration.

General Questions

Q. How will collection of this information and data help fight SECD?

A. Routine and standard disease reporting for SECD will help determine the magnitude of the disease in the United States and document progress in managing the disease. It will also help us to determine any additional steps we should take in conjunction with States and industry to better control the spread of these viruses.

Q. Is contaminated feed the likely source of PEDv? If so, what is being done to address this pathway?

A. An SECD such as PEDv or PDCoV has many potential pathways of introduction onto a farm or site. Feed is one possibility, along with equipment, trucks, people, infected pigs and others. Biosecurity best practices mitigate these concerns.

Q. Why didn't USDA take these steps when PEDv was first detected in the U.S.?

A. In 2014, we detected several new corona viruses in the U.S. swine herd, including PEDv, which has caused significant impacts to producers. Industry has estimated PEDv has killed some 7 million piglets. The number of market-ready hogs this summer could fall by more than 10 percent relative to 2013 because of PEDv and consumers have seen store pork prices rise by almost 10 percent in the past year. A year ago, we didn't expect PEDv and these other viruses would have this great an impact to industry. In conjunction with States and industry, we decided at that time, the best course of action was for industry to address and manage PEDv and these other viruses, with support from USDA.

Because these diseases are having a significant impact on one of our major livestock industries, we believe it important from the standpoint of overall U.S. animal health for USDA and State animal health authorities to play a greater role in monitoring these diseases and tracing their spread.

The industry is already seeing herds previously impacted by the virus become re-infected, and routine and standard disease reporting will help determine the magnitude of the disease in the United States and document progress in managing the disease. It will also help us to determine any additional steps we should take in conjunction with States and industry to better control the spread of these viruses.

Q. Is there a vaccine available?

A. Approved vaccines are available.

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