

# THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS



## Department of Agricultural Resources

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### **Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea Advisory**

April 25, 2016

Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea (PEDv) virus has been found on a swine breeding farm in Massachusetts. PEDv is a corona virus that is highly contagious in swine. Large numbers of virus are shed in infected pig feces, with the result that the virus can be spread easily through routine swine movements and ordinary animal management practices, causing the disease to move through a herd within days. The disease has caused major problems and economic losses in the commercial swine industry and has been reported in at least 36 states since the beginning of the outbreak.

It is important to note that PEDv only affects swine and cannot spread to humans, nor does it cause a health risk to those who consume pork products.

All swine can be susceptible to the virus and may exhibit signs of diarrhea, vomiting, or going off-feed, but the most devastating effects are suffered by newborns and nursing piglets, for which PEDv is often fatal. Older piglets may survive the diarrhea and dehydration unless complicated by co-infection with other illnesses. Fever, weight loss, dehydration and lethargy may be present as well.

No specific treatment is available. Affected pigs should be kept warm, dry, and well hydrated with oral electrolyte supplementation. However, in very young animals treatment is usually futile. Robust biosecurity practices are necessary to protect swine businesses from this disease.

- Breeding operations should be segregated and protected from all other aspects/areas of business.
- Routine cleaning and disinfection of trailers and trucks that move off the farm should become standard. Virkon, bleach, and other disinfectants are effective against the virus. .
- Overalls and boot covers, boots that are disinfected before and after leaving each animal area, or dedicated boots and clothing for on farm vs. off farm use should be used.
- Any areas that contain or may have had contact with swine feces are problematic. Don't carry it home on your boots, on your paperwork, on the floor of your truck, or the wheels of your livestock trailer.

Good animal management practices are critical to preventing the spread of the virus.

- Do not divert animals from their intended use.
  - Animals sold for slaughter purposes should reach their destination promptly and be slaughtered within 72 hours
  - Animals that have been comingled at auctions or sales may have been exposed to PEDv or other diseases, and should not be moved to a farm
- It is required that animals purchased for breeding purposes must be purchased directly from the farm of origin. They should be delivered on a clean trailer to a clean area on the farm and isolated for 14-30 days prior to introduction to the main herd.

- Follow the regulations at 330 CMR 11:00: Swine

<http://www.mass.gov/eea/docs/agr/legal/regs/330-cmr-11-00.pdf>

While this remains a reportable disease, available USDA funding to assist in management of cases is no longer available. If you suspect that your pigs may have Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea, please contact your veterinarian immediately.

To report suspect cases of PEDv, or for additional information, contact the MDAR Division of Animal Health at 617-626-1795.

**Be aware. Be smart. Report illnesses to 617-626-1795.**