Influenza A in Swine Summary Guidance for Veterinarians



Agent	 Type A influenza virus: RNA virus in family Orthomyxoviridae. Hemagglutinating antigen (HA) and neuraminidase antigen (NA), are the basis for the serologic identity of the influenza viruses, 16 hemagglutinin (H) and nine neuraminidase (N) subtype antigens described for Type A influenza viruses Most common subtypes in swine are H1N1, H1N2, H3N2
Susceptible species	 Pigs are reservoir and principal host of swine influenza viruses Because pigs are susceptible to both avian and human influenza strains, they can be important in influenza virus reassortment events and interspecies transmission. Swine influenza viruses have been detected in other species including humans, turkeys and ducks
Occurrence in BC and the world	 Enzootic in pigs in Canada, the United States, Mexico, South America, Europe, and parts of Africa and Asia H1N1 is the most common cause of swine influenza in North America; up to 40% of herds may contain antibody positive pigs Outbreaks usually in late fall or winter months 1-3 cases of swine influenza diagnosed in BC herds annually No cases of human transmission of swine influenza documented in BC
Transmission	Respiratory and indirect transmission
Diagnosis	1-3 day incubation period
Clinical	 High morbidity, low mortality; young growing pigs most susceptible. Acute upper respiratory disease: fever, lethargy, anorexia, weight loss, laboured breathing, coughing, sneezing, nasal discharge
	Differential diagnoses: enzootic pneumonia, hog cholera, inclusion body rhinitis, atrophic rhinitis
Laboratory	PCR to detect virus, virus isolation, hemagglutination inhibition test, ELISA
Prevention and control	 Vaccination , strict import controls and good biosecurity to prevent infection entering a herd Inactivated H1N1 and H3N2 influenza vaccines are available Treatment to relieve symptoms, antimicrobials may reduce secondary bacterial infectinos
Zoonotic implications	 Zoonotic transmission of swine influenza to humans has occurred worldwide Swine influenza illness is rare in humans, and is usually mild if it occurs
Reporting	 Influenza A in swine is a notifiable disease to the Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO) in BC All <u>laboratory-confirmed</u> cases should be reported within 24 hours (604-556-3013) Veterinarians may be contacted by public health authorities for follow-up