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Commissioner

North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

Veterinary Division

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To: All Swine Exhibitors at NC Fairs
N.C. Cooperative Extension
N.C. 4-H Coordinators

Re: **Influenza H3N2v: Key Facts for People Exhibiting Pigs at Fairs**

The North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and the North Carolina Division of Public Health would like to be sure that all swine exhibitors receive the attached joint recommendations from 4-H and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) titled **"Influenza H3N2v: Key Facts for People Exhibiting Pigs at Fairs."**

The H3N2v virus was first found in pigs in 2010 and humans in 2011. This virus appears to spread more easily from pigs to people than other swine influenza viruses. There were 12 human infections in 2011, and outbreaks in people have been occurring in a number of U.S. states since July of 2012. Investigations indicate that the main risk factor for infection is exposure to pigs, mostly in fair settings. No cases of H3N2v have been detected so far in North Carolina.

To date, both the 4-H and the Cooperative Extension Service, working with the guidance of the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, have provided practical information to help protect exhibitors and the general public from potential influenza infection. The attached recommendations add more specific information for swine exhibitors, including guidance for those at high risk for serious H3N2v illness and information about what to do if you get sick.

A list of frequently asked questions is included on the next page. Updated information and public health recommendations regarding H3N2v can be found at the following sites: www.cdc.gov/flu/swineflu/h3n2v-outbreak.htm and www.flu.nc.gov.

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Frequently Asked Questions

Will seasonal flu vaccine protect against H3N2v?

- Seasonal flu vaccine will not protect against H3N2v. The seasonal flu vaccine will protect you against seasonal influenza viruses that are expected to circulate this season. CDC recommends that everyone 6 months and older get a seasonal flu vaccine each year.
- The same influenza antiviral drugs used to treat seasonal flu can treat H3N2v in children and adults.

Is H3N2v dangerous?

- Currently, the severity of human illness associated with H3N2v resembles that of seasonal flu.
- Keep in mind that even seasonal influenza can be a serious disease. Sometimes seasonal influenza can lead to complications (like pneumonia).

If I want more information about influenza in pigs, where can it be found?

- The USDA and CDC have jointly prepared an informational document that can be found at this website: www.cdc.gov/flu/swineflu/people-raise-pigs-flu.htm

If I want to display or provide information for spectators at my swine exhibit, where can I find that information?

- The NCDA&CS has developed excellent posters reminding spectators about not touching exhibit animals, employing good personal hygiene, and other measures: www.ncagr.gov/markets/fairs/fairmanagerinfo.htm#download
- The CDC has also developed guidance titled “Take Action to Prevent the Spread of Flu between People and Pigs at Fairs”
    - Flyer: http://www.cdc.gov/flu/pdf/swineflu/prevent-spread-flu-pigs-at-fairs.pdf
    - Fact Sheet: http://www.cdc.gov/flu/swineflu/h3n2v-fairs-factsheet.htm