

Classical Swine Fever

Hog Cholera

What is classical swine fever and what causes it?

Classical swine fever (CSF), also known as hog cholera, is a highly contagious and economically significant viral disease of pigs. The disease has been eradicated from the U.S. since 1978. Outbreaks have occurred in Asia, South America, Central America, including Mexico and parts of the Caribbean islands and Africa.

What animals get classical swine fever?

CSF affects domestic and wild (feral) swine.

How can my animal get classical swine fever?

Pigs can become infected after eating (**oral**) food contaminated with the virus. This most commonly occurs from the feeding of uncooked or undercooked garbage or meat products to pigs. Pigs are then exposed by **direct contact** with infected pigs or by objects (**fomites**) contaminated by infected pigs (e.g., equipment, boots, clothing, buckets, pens). The virus is shed in the blood, saliva, nasal discharge, urine, feces or tissues of infected pigs. The virus can also be spread in semen during breeding or across the placenta from infected sows to piglets. Less commonly, the virus is spread by **aerosol** in close confinement or by **vectors** (e.g., flies).

How does CSF affect my animal?

Severity of the disease varies with the strain of virus introduced. Disease can range from mild to severe. Acute infections occur rapidly (2 to 15 days)

and result in variable rates of illness and death. Chronic infections occur over a longer period of time (2 to 4 weeks) and may only affect a few animals. Some infected pigs may not show signs of disease but serve to spread the virus to others.

Infected pigs may have a high fever (105-107°F), huddle and stop eating. Intermittent constipation followed by diarrhea and conjunctivitis (reddened eyes) can also occur. Hemorrhages of the skin may be seen as raised, reddened spots on the skin or purple discoloration of the ears, abdomen or inner thighs. Young pigs may have incoordination, weakness and convulsions.

In breeding herds, the disease can affect reproductive performance. Infected sows may abort, have stillborn, mummified, malformed or weak piglets

Can I get CSF?

CSF does not affect humans.



Who should I contact if I suspect CSF?

Contact your veterinarian immediately. Classical swine fever is not currently found in the U.S.; suspicion of disease requires immediate attention.

How can I protect my animals from CSF?

To prevent the introduction of CSF, use strict biosecurity procedures on your farm. Minimize visitors on your farm and do not allow persons who have recently (last 5 days) had contact with animals, especially swine, in other countries to have contact with your pigs.

Clean coveralls and boots should be worn when contact with pigs is expected. These items should remain on the farm and be cleaned and disinfected prior to re-use.

Vehicles and wheel wells should be cleaned and disinfected **before** entering and leaving the farm.

Newly arriving or returning pigs should be isolated for at least 30 days before being introduced to the rest of the herd.

Do not feed uncooked or undercooked garbage or meat products to pigs. Implement fly control measures.

For More Information

CFSPH Technical Fact Sheets. Classical swine fever at www.cfsph.iastate.edu/DiseaseInfo/

USDA-APHIS. Classical swine fever fact sheet at www.aphis.usda.gov/lpa/pubs/fsheet_faq_notice/fs_ahcsf.pdf