

# Frequently Asked Questions About Ontario's PED Elimination Plan

**What is the purpose of the Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea (PED) elimination plan?**

**A:** The goal is to eliminate PED from all Ontario swine herds by October 2017.

**Why do we need to eliminate PED?**

**A:** Eliminating PED reduces overall disease pressure on our herds, improves herd productivity, and improves the competitiveness and economic viability of the Ontario swine industry. Going through this process will also help us develop and improve tools to support the control and elimination of any disease of significance to the hog industry, not just PED. This will improve our long-term disease response capacity and industry sustainability.

**What happens when a farm breaks with PED?**

**A:** When a positive test is found, producers work with their veterinarian on biosecurity and sanitation protocols to contain and control PED in the herd and work towards elimination.

**Are individual farmers or truckers notified directly if PED is confirmed?**

**A:** Yes. Transporters and producers are both informed if PED positive pigs are confirmed.

**Can I ship PED positive pigs from my herd?**

**A:** Yes. The PED elimination plan is not intended to interrupt business, but rather to put in place plans to reduce risk. Orderly marketing plans and sanitation solutions for transport and processing will accomplish this.

**When can I return to my normal shipping schedule after I've had a PED break?**

**A:** Producers can resume regular hog shipments once a PED presumed negative site status is confirmed using the Ontario Swine Health Advisory Board (OSHAB) established guidelines.

**Are PED positive pigs slaughtered separately from PED negative pigs?**

**A:** No. There is no human health risk from PED and PED positive hogs are not slaughtered separately. However, load delivery for positive sites will be scheduled to allow for an appropriate sanitation solution to reduce risk for other producers, such as end of day deliveries.

**Are all processing plants in Ontario participating in the PED elimination plan?**

**A:** All federally licensed processing plants in Ontario are participating in the PED elimination plan. Provincially licensed plants will be approached to discuss actions they can take to reduce PED transmission risks as the plan is implemented.





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**What makes this plan compared different from earlier PED strategies?**

**A:** We will work to identify all sites positive for PED or Porcine Delta Coronavirus (PDCoV) including sites which have received positive pigs. As well, we will work with our processor partners to enact a system for orderly marketing to market virus-positive pigs efficiently and safely. This will include a requirement from federally licensed Ontario processors that all positive sites declare and have biosecurity solutions in place to market pigs safely.

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**I understand that trucks from the U.S. may be an on-going source of PED. Will this plan eliminate the risk of PED being brought in from the U.S. via transport trucks?**

**A:** The plan can't completely eliminate the risk from trucks travelling into Ontario from the U.S., but it does include sanitation protocols designed to reduce the risk of PED transmission.

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**Are all Ontario pig farmers required to take part in this plan, including testing and cleanup protocols after a PED positive test?**

**A:** The PED elimination plan is a voluntary program, but Swine Health Ontario is encouraging all producers to see the benefits that the entire industry will realize when everyone takes an active part in helping to contain control and ultimately eliminate PED from Ontario.

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**When is Ontario targeting to be rid of PED from farm sites?**

**A:** October 2017.

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**Is there funding available for cleanup with PED positive pigs?**

**A:** There is support for PED elimination plan development with your veterinarian as well as specified diagnostic testing. However, any on-farm elimination costs are covered by individual producers.

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**What happens if we have new PED breaks even after PED is eliminated from Ontario?**

**A:** Should PED be confirmed, a PED elimination plan will be implemented for that specific farm. On-going surveillance will identify where extra cleaning and disinfection may be needed at industry contact points.

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**Will PED be completely eliminated from the province by October 2017?**

**A:** The goal is PED elimination from all Ontario farm sites by October 2017 with an effective response plan in place in case of any subsequent breaks. Next steps will include further work to reduce PED transmissions risks associated with cull pigs and assembly as well as reducing U.S. contact risks. All of this work will continue our efforts to improve our swine health system in Ontario.

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**For more information**

On the PED elimination plan, visit [www.swinehealthontario.ca](http://www.swinehealthontario.ca)