

April 10, 2024

TRANSPORTER BIOSECURITY ADVISORY: PED AND PDCOV CASES IN ONTARIO, SENECAVIRUS A IN QUEBEC

Ontario continues to see an increase of positive tests for Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea Virus (PEDv) and Porcine Deltacoronavirus (PDCOV) at farms, yards and processing plants since the beginning of the year across several counties. Traceback and elimination plans for these cases are underway. ***The majority of cases are being attributed at this time to movements of animals or people. As we approach planting season and manure spreading, there may be increased risk for picking up manure along roadways and in farmyards. Particular care should be taken on farms to ensure particulates are not transferred into the barns.***

Current case counts can be viewed here: <http://www.swinehealthontario.ca/Disease-Information/PED-PDCoV-Tracking-Map>.

Additionally, Senecavirus A has been identified at a private assembly yard and at a related sow barn and nursery barns in Quebec and virus elimination plans are underway. Senecavirus A has similar symptoms to Foot and Mouth Disease, a federally reportable foreign animal disease. If symptoms are seen, do not transport those animals. The producer must notify their vet immediately so rule out testing with CFIA can be completed. Receiving suspected animals at processing plants can shut down plant operations.

We are fortunate to have an engaged, hard-working transport industry who have met these challenges in the past. Here are a few helpful reminders for transporters and their staff to help reduce the potential for disease transfer:

1. ***Pigs need a clean ride:*** Genetic stock is the highest priority, weanling and feeder pigs are the next highest priority. The barns you load out from must be protected and the barns receiving these pigs need them to come in clean.
2. ***Dirty places are DIRTY places:*** Cull assembly yards are the highest risk to any trailer. All processing plants are also high risk. Any shavings or manure present at the end of a loading chute at any location should be assumed to carry disease.
3. ***Know what pigs were on your trailer:*** If you have been hauling shedding pigs (e.g. pigs from known outbreak herds or cull pigs from assembly yards), these trailers are covered with infectious virus. **These trailers must have a very detailed wash, disinfect and dry.**
4. ***Transportation also includes the tractor:*** Detailing the power unit is very important. Cases have been found where the trailer was clean and the virus came from a contaminated power unit.
5. ***Wash your wash bay:*** If contaminated trailers are washed, the result is often a contaminated wash bay. You can reduce contamination of your wash bay by scraping known positive trailers offsite at a designated spot, then soaking the trailer prior to washing with a disinfectant such as Synergize or Prevail.

Symptoms of PEDv and PDCOV can include:

- Sows: Watery diarrhea, loose feces, vomiting, off feed
- Piglets: Diarrhea, dehydration, vomiting, affected pigs appear skinny, high mortality
- Weaners and Growers: Acute watery diarrhea with no blood or mucus, vomiting, off feed
- Finisher: Any level of abnormal diarrhea, that may only last a few days; no expected increase in mortality; clinical signs can be very mild in nature
- *Note: symptoms of PDCOV tend to be milder than PED and could be missed, particularly in finishers, so vigilance is key*

Symptoms of Senecavirus A can include:

- Lameness
- Vesicles/ulcers on the snout, nostrils, oral mucous membranes, tongue, udders, skin or feet
- Swelling/white band at the junction of the hoof and the foot
- Off-feed, lethargy, fever
- Suckling piglets may have diarrhea and increased pre-weaning mortality

If you have additional questions or concerns, please reach out to info@swinehealthontario.ca. Biosecurity resources can be found here: www.swinehealthontario.ca/Biosecurity.

If you need mental health support during this time, please reach out to the Farmer Wellness Initiative at 1-866-267-6255 or farmerwellnessinitiative.ca.