

PORCINE EPIDEMIC DIARRHEA (PED)

Porcine epidemic diarrhea (PED) is a highly contagious viral disease of pigs that causes severe diarrhea and vomiting. It can be very serious with up to 100 % mortality in suckling pigs.

PED does not pose a risk to human health or food safety. PED does not pose a risk to other animals, the virus only affects pigs.

PED IN CANADA

The first case of PED in Canada was confirmed in January 2014, on a swine farm in Ontario. Since then, PED has also been reported in Alberta, Manitoba, Quebec and Prince Edward Island.

TRANSMISSION

PED is typically transmitted by direct contact between infected and non-infected pigs (oral contact with contaminated feces). It can also be spread through people's clothing, boots, vehicles, equipment, feed and other items contaminated with the feces of infected animals.

Trucks contaminated by pig manure are believed to be the most common way the virus is spread.

BIOSECURITY IS KEY TO PREVENTING THE SPREAD OF PED

Producers and anyone handling pigs or coming onto a farm must practice **strict on-farm biosecurity** to help protect against the spread of PED.

Producers need to work with their veterinarian to assess their biosecurity risks across the operation, then work to develop and maintain excellent biosecurity practices to address those risks.

Biosecurity around truck and pig movement are key measures.

Close attention should be paid to using washed and disinfected trucks, especially those trucks that may have been to places that have the virus.

SIGNS OF PED

- Acute outbreaks of **severe diarrhea** and **vomiting** that can affect up to 100% of a herd that has not been previously exposed to PED.
- **Significant mortality** is reported in suckling piglets under 7 days of age. Pigs that are older than 7 days are expected to recover.
- In herds that have become endemic, diarrhea and vomiting are typically limited to suckling and recently weaned pigs.

Any sudden onset of unusual diarrhea should be investigated immediately by a veterinarian. It is important to respond quickly to stop the spread of the disease.

Incubation in individual pigs may be as short as 22-36 hours or 2-4 days at the herd level. Infected pigs can infect other pigs for several weeks.

Diagnosis: Requires sample submissions to a provincial animal health laboratory (contact your veterinarian).

Treatment is normally limited to supportive therapy to address dehydration.