

No-50-315/2009-LDT (AQ)  
Government of India  
Ministry of Agriculture  
**Department Of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries**

Krishi Bhavan, New Delhi  
Dated the 24<sup>th</sup> August, 2009

To,

**The Principal Secretary/ Secretary**  
**Department of Animal Husbandry/ Veterinary Services,**  
All States/ Union Territories.

**Subject:** Advisory on Pandemic Influenza (H1N1) in Animals.

Sir,

Please refer to this Department's letter of even number dated 29<sup>th</sup> April, 2009, enclosing a fact sheet on Swine Influenza (Swine Flu). The copy of the letter may be seen on the departmental website [www.dahd.nic.in](http://www.dahd.nic.in).

The World Organization on Animal Health (OIE) issued advisories and guidelines on the disease from time to time. Taking into account all available scientific information, the following are recommended:-

- The national veterinary services must ensure a high level of awareness in the veterinary and producer community and effectively monitor animal populations for clinical signs of respiratory disease, use appropriate confirmation diagnostic methods and rapidly report the initial occurrences of the disease in animals to the OIE by using the qualification of "emerging disease".
- The presence of the "pandemic H1N1 2009 virus" should be detected on a farm, the holding should be subject to a surveillance plan and movement restrictions applied until recovery; the transfer of clinically healthy pigs from the farm to the slaughterhouse can be done using basic bio-security measures.
- The culling of pigs will not help to guard against public or animal health risks presented by the virus. As for any other disease, slaughtering of sick pigs for human consumption is not recommended.
- The imposition of ban measures related to the import of pigs and pig products from countries with human or animal cases are pointless and do not comply with international standards published by the OIE and all other competent standard setting international bodies for animal health and food safety.
- In the case of countries deciding to cull pigs on the basis of the principle of precaution, culling of animals should always be carried out in accordance with OIE international standards on animal welfare and killing methods for disease control purposes (Volume 1; Section 7; Chapter 7.6 of the Terrestrial Animal Health Code; [http://www.oie.int/eng/normes/mcode/en\\_chapitre\\_1.7.6.htm](http://www.oie.int/eng/normes/mcode/en_chapitre_1.7.6.htm)).
- Pork and pork products, handled in accordance with good hygienic practices jointly recommended by the WHO, FAO, Codex Alimentarius Commission and the OIE, are not a source of infection from the virus.

Yours faithfully,



(A.B. Negi)

Joint Commissioner (LHS)

**Copy to:** The Commissioner/ Director, Department of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services of all States/ Union Territories.