

CONTROL AND PREVENTION PROGRAMME
INFLUENZA A /H1N1 IN PIGS
Department of Veterinary Services(DVS) Malaysia

AIM

1. Control prevalence and incidence of influenza in pigs caused by SIV (H1N1 and H3N2) in the long run or new emergence in pig farms in the country.
2. Stipulate high biosecurity level in pig farms through Good Animal Husbandry .

RATIONAL

1. Pigs deemed as “mixing vessels” where influenza virus from various animal types (eg. humans, poultry, dogs, cats etc.) can mingle and re-assort to become a novel virus.
2. Swine Flu Risk Reduction Programme is a strategy aimed at checking pigs’ role as “mixing vessels” and therewith, smaller risk for pigs producing novel virus.
3. Practise of Good Animal Husbandry ensures risk faktor kept at harmless level. Pig Farming is more orderly and does not contribute to risk of zoonotic diseases in future.

ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITY

A. INFLUENZA A /H1N1 DISEASE CONTROL & PREVENTION ACTION COMMITTEE, DVS (PUTRAJAYA)

1. Advise KSU, MOA on measures taken and progress report of programme in pigs.
2. As MOA’s mediator with all Ministries and Agencies involved in control of Influenza A / H1N1.

B. INFLUENZA A /H1NI DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION EXECUTANT COMMITTEE, DVS (STATE)

1. Inform Action Committee and State authorities on measures taken and progress report of programme in pigs at State level.
2. As DVS mediator with all Ministries and Agencies involved in control of Influenza A /H1N1 including farmers and Farmers Associations (NGOs).

TASKS

A. EPIDEMIOLOGY AND SURVEILLANCE

1. Monitoring all pig farms in the country (N=775) for:
 - Any incidents of influenza via clinical examinations especially on porkers and breeders (sows and boars).
 - Serological prevalence of H1N1 dan H3N2 via 24 blood samples (12 porkers, 10 sows and 5 boars) for each farm.

- Existence of H1N1, H3N2 or other SIV virus via nasal swabs especially from those animals showing respiratory symptoms (24 samples) and further conducting molecular epidemiology to learn about characteristics of virus.
2. Monitoring all pig abattoirs in the country (N=24) for:
 - Incidence of swine influenza via clinical examinations on all pigs sent to abattoirs.
 - Existence of virus via nasal swabs especially from those animals showing respiratory symptoms (24 samples per day).

B. DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

1. Acquiring materials and equipments needed to reduce risk factor:
 - Biologics eg. effective vaccines and disinfectants including PPE and personal safety kits for field staff involved in programme.
 - Work groups schedule and mobilization of disease control staff and vehicles when the need arises.
 - Arrange vehicles for disease control in each state.
2. Action plans:
 - Disinfect whole farm twice a week with approved disinfectants.
 - Farm biosecurity tightened and more effective.
 - Vaccination of all pigs in farm with vaccine approved by Government. Vaccination can be carried out by recognized private practitioners.

C. DIAGNOSTICS AND SAMPLE PROCESSING (VRI and Regional Labs)

1. Arrange schedule for despatch, receiving, processing of samples and ensure:
 - Blood samples processed in Regional Labs. Processed serum labeled and sent to VRI.
 - Nasal swabs in media transport sent to VRI.
2. Conduct diagnostics:
 - Assay ELISA tests on serum samples according to OIE protocol.
 - Culture nasal swabs in media including processing several other passages according to OIE protocol.

D. MEDIA CENTRE

1. Coordinate results from labs and activities of farm inspections to Disease Control Centre daily for:
 - Reporting to MOA and MOH with approval from Director General, DVS.

- Announcements to mass media (TV, radio and press) on decisions made by MOA / KSU / Director General, DVS.
2. Channel and spread information on actions taken by Government (DVS):
 - Inform farmers /owners of pig farms in the country about safety measures and control programme
 - Prepare protocol for farms and workers
 - Arrange press conferences with mass media.
 3. Coordinate information received from other Ministries and government Agencies for:
 - Updates on status of epidemic and abiding rules and regulations.
 - Communicate with World Health Organizations (OIE/CDC) and Influenza Research and Control Centres.
 - Arrange press conferences with mass media.