

COVID-19 Weekly Information Update - September 25, 2020 / COVID-19 - Mise à jour de la semaine - le 25 septembre 2020

Hello,

We would like to send you a few updates regarding COVID-19 and ask you to share this information in your networks. Please continue to consult the [AAFC website](#) regularly for updates.

1. Follow up: CFIA Susceptibility studies on domestic turkeys, chickens and pigs

On the **AAFC - COVID-19 - Information Sharing with sector stakeholders conference call** held on September 23, 2020, AAFC committed to follow up on questions asked with regard to COVID-19 animal susceptibility studies. Please see below the answers provided by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA).

A. Has CFIA undertaken further research on other domesticated animals' susceptibility to COVID (other than chickens, turkey or swine)?

A: No, CFIA has not undertaken any other studies on domestic animal susceptibility.

B. Are there any plans to undertake this research?

A: Currently there are no plans to undertake further studies on livestock animal susceptibility. Note that CFIA is working with many partners to fight against COVID-19. Development of diagnostic tests, and development of the ingredients for serological testing is currently underway. Efforts include collaborating with university researchers to develop laboratory animal models for testing vaccine safety and working with other international laboratories (US, UK, Germany and Australia) to exchange information and collaborate on activities, including diagnostics and research required to facilitate rapid global responses.

C. Is CFIA aware of other countries having undertaken similar research? If so could these be shared?

A: New studies and reports on SARS-CoV2 are being published frequently. Information on animal infections with SARS-CoV-2 are reported to the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and information on SARS-CoV-2 and animals is available on the [OIE COVID-19 portal](#). In addition, there is information on the Canada.ca Covid-19 page about [COVID-19 and animals](#), including a table of susceptible species.

D. Was the virus detected in the swine lymph nodes alive or dead? Should this be of concern to workers on the plant floor?

A: The virus detected in the submandibular lymph node of a single animal was live as we were able to isolate and culture the virus in the laboratory under optimal conditions. However, this shouldn't be extrapolated directly to the situation with workers on the plant floor. The risk of becoming sick from contact with tissues from a pig in a slaughterhouse is negligible given that swine have demonstrated low susceptibility to the virus and cannot spread the virus to humans, animals or the environment, and considering the personal protective equipment employees use in these establishments.

Thank you,

Industry Engagement Division
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
Government of Canada