

STOP ASF HELP ELIMINATE ASF

CALL 180 1332 TO REPORT SICK OR DEAD PIGS



ASF



QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

- X What is African Swine Fever (ASF)?
- X Where did ASF come from?
- X What are the symptoms of ASF?
- X How is ASF spread?
- X How do pigs catch ASF?
- X Can ASF affect other animals?
- X Is there a vaccine/cure/treatment for ASF?
- X Is ASF caused by Sanguma?
- X Are humans susceptible to ASF?
- X Can you eat infected pigs?
- X How can I check if my pig has a high fever?
- X Can ASF survive the heat from mumu stones?
- X What do ASF checkpoints look for?
- X How many pigs have died from ASF?
- X How can I protect my pigs from ASF?
- X Can I move pigs from a clean area (ie. rest of PNG other than Hela, SHP, Enga) into the disease area (Hela, SHP, Enga)?
- X Who can I contact if my pigs are sick or have died?

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QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

WHAT IS AFRICAN SWINE FEVER (ASF)

African swine fever is a serious disease of pigs caused by the ASF virus. It causes haemorrhagic fever in pigs that is very infectious and fatal for pigs. It can spread quickly within and between farms and kill a lot of pigs in a short space of time within an infected farm or area.

WHERE DID ASF COME FROM?

ASF is a disease that first emerged in southern Africa in 1920s. It has since spread throughout Africa, the Americas and Europe. In August 2018, the disease spread to China in the Asian region. Since then, it has spread throughout the Asian region, affecting many countries including Philippines, Timor Leste and Indonesia in late 2019. ASF was detected in Mendi Munihi district, SHP, in March 2020.

WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS OF ASF?

- High Fever.
- Loss of appetite and weight loss, weakness, lack of movement, sleepiness.
- Reddening of skin, blotchy lesion of skin.
- Bleeding from skin, snout, mouth.
- Diarrhea: Sometimes bloody faeces, can be dark brown or black.
- Abortion in pregnant sows.
- Nasal discharge, difficulty in breathing.
- Death (Within 7-10 days).
- Sudden death: Most times pigs can die suddenly without showing any signs at all.

HOW IS ASF SPREAD?

- The virus is spread by moving infected pigs and/or infected pork meat from an infected farm or area to a non-infected farm or area.
- ASF virus is spread by feeding pigs with feed that contains infected pork meat.
- ASF virus is spread through contaminated materials such as farmers' boots, clothes, tools, vehicle tyres etc.
- ASF is NOT airborne.

HOW DO PIGS CATCH ASF?

- Pigs catch ASF from coming into close contact with other infected pigs. The virus in infected pigs is shed in the discharges in the mouth and nose as well as faeces, urine and blood.
- Pigs can catch ASF through eating feed that contains infected pork meat.
- Pigs can also catch ASF from contacting infected materials such as farmers' boots, clothes, tools, vehicle tyres etc.

CAN ASF AFFECT OTHER ANIMALS?

ASF only causes disease in pigs alone. Both wild and domesticated pigs are equally susceptible. ASF does not affect other animals apart from pigs.

IS THERE A VACCINE/CURE/TREATMENT FOR ASF?

There is no medicine or treatment for ASF. There is also no safe vaccine for protection from ASF.

IS ASF CAUSED BY SANGUMA?

ASF is caused by a virus. It is not caused by Sanguma or puripuri.

ARE HUMANS SUSCEPTIBLE TO ASF?

Human beings are not susceptible to ASF. The ASF virus does not cause any infection or disease in human beings.

CAN YOU EAT INFECTED PIGS?

It is advisable not to slaughter, cook and eat pigs infected with ASF. This results in further spread of the virus to non-infected pigs, farms and areas. In addition, as a general rule, it is safe practice not to eat sick or dead pigs and animals. While we concentrate on ASF which does not cause disease in humans, always be mindful that the pig (or any animal) could be sick or dead from other causes that can be harmful to humans.

HOW CAN I CHECK IF MY PIG HAS A HIGH FEVER?

If your pig has a high fever, it would not be responsive to you when you enter the pig house or pen area. It would normally appear dull, has rapid breathing and may have reddened skin which will feel hotter than usual. If temperatures can be taken, it will be around 39-40 degrees C.

CAN ASF SURVIVE THE HEAT FROM MUMU STONES?

The heat of mumu stones and the time the mumu remains covered for cooking is sufficient to kill the virus. However, because the pig is usually cooked as a whole carcass or in bulky cuts, the core of the pork meat (that usually remains raw and uncooked after the mumu process) can still harbor live ASF virus capable of causing infection in non-infected pigs.

WHAT DO ASF CHECKPOINTS LOOK FOR?

At the ASF road checkpoints, authorized personnel will check for restricted items such as live pigs, pork meat, pig bones, dirty farm equipment, contaminated bags or bilum containing pork meat.

HOW MANY PIGS HAVE DIED FROM ASF?

NAQIA and the local provincial authorities in the declared Disease Area have not conducted a proper assessment yet of the deaths of pigs due to ASF. This will be done in due course.

HOW CAN I PROTECT MY PIGS FROM ASF?

Pigs can be protected by applying the following biosecurity and hygiene measures:

- Don't let pigs roam freely, put pigs into pens and fences.

- Do not mix your pigs with newly introduced pigs from different farms or places. Put them separately and observe for sickness for 14 days. If no signs of disease develops, then you can introduce pigs into your farm/pens.
- Do not allow people or animals unnecessarily through your pig pens. Allow only designated pig keepers and handlers into pig pens.
- Clean your pig pens regularly. Clean their deep litter.
- Feed your pigs feed stuff only from trusted sources. Pig feed must not contain any pork meat.
- Clean yourself and use separate farm clothes when entering farm/pens. Wash your hands and clothes after handling your pigs and before leaving your farm.
- If your pigs become sick or die, report to NAQIA on 1801332 or your local officials.
- Dispose of dead pigs properly by burial. Do not cut open, cook or eat dead pigs.
- Do not move pigs within, between and from the declared Disease Area.

CAN I MOVE LIVE PIGS FROM A CLEAN AREA (IE. REST OF PNG OTHER THAN HELA, SHP, ENGA) INTO THE DISEASE AREA (HELA, SHP, ENGA)?

No, you are not allowed to do this. If pigs are moved from clean areas into infected areas, they may get infected and can continue to sustain the disease and not allow natural 'die out' of the virus by itself over time. So the answer is no, live pigs are not allowed to be moved from clean areas into infected areas.

WHO CAN I CONTACT IF MY PIGS ARE SICK OR HAVE DIED?

- Contact a local public servant.
- Contact your local ward councillor.
- Contact a local didiman.
- Contact a local police officer.
- Contact your local church leader.
- Call NAQIA on 180 1332.