

H1N1 Talking Points—For When Discovered in Herd

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- According to the CDC, finding the novel 2009 H1N1 virus in the U.S. swine herd does not change the fact that you cannot get the H1N1 flu from eating pork. Pork and pork products remain safe to eat and handle.
- Scientific studies conducted by the USDA have proven that the H1N1 flu is a respiratory virus, not a food-borne illness, and it is not found in the blood or meat of pigs exposed to the virus.
- The U.S. government has strict safeguards in place to protect the safety of our food supply.
 - All pork found in retail stores is inspected to the rigors of USDA inspection for wholesomeness.
 - Every pig is inspected to ensure only healthy pigs enter our food supply.
 - The “Passed and Inspected by USDA” seal ensure the pork is wholesome and free from disease.
- Like any other virus, the main way that the H1N1 flu spreads is when an infected person coughs or sneezes.
 - The two most important steps you can take to protect you and your family from the H1N1 flu are to wash your hands often with soap and water or hand sanitizer and avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth.

Additional points:

- The U.S. response is the same as in Canada, Australia and Northern Ireland where Novel H1N1 was found in the swine herd earlier this year. The pigs will be monitored, allowed to recover and then return to the production system.