

PED/PDCOV INFO SHEET: LIVESTOCK DRIVERS

This winter, Ontario has seen a large increase in cases of Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea Virus (PEDv) and Porcine Deltacoronavirus (PDCOV) on farms. The majority of cases are being attributed to transport events, particularly contact with known positive assembly sites or plants.

PED and PDCOV are highly infectious and can kill young pigs. You do not want to be the one to track disease into a healthy herd.

We are fortunate to have an engaged, hard-working transport industry who have met these challenges in the past. Here are a few helpful reminders for drivers to help reduce the potential for disease transfer:

1. ***Pigs need a clean ride:*** Genetic stock is the highest priority, weanling and feeder pigs are the next highest priority. Ideally, equipment transporting genetic stock or weanlings should not go to assemblies or slaughter plants. The barns you load out from must be protected and the barns receiving these pigs need them to come in clean.
2. ***Dirty places are DIRTY places:*** Cull assembly yards and slaughter plants are the highest risk to any trailer. **Any footwear in contact with any part of the plant or assembly yards should be considered contaminated.** Any shavings or manure present at the end of a loading chute at any location should be assumed to carry disease. Avoid using shared scrape out areas if possible.
3. ***Know what pigs were on your trailer:*** If you have been hauling shedding pigs (e.g. pigs from known outbreak herds or cull pigs from assembly yards), these trailers are covered with infectious virus. **These trailers must have a very detailed wash, disinfect and dry.**
4. ***Transportation also includes the tractor:*** Consider the power unit contaminated if you use the same footwear in the cab as you use walking on the ground at the plant or assembly yard. Detailing the power unit is very important. Cases have been found where the trailer was clean, and the virus came from a contaminated power unit and footwear.
5. ***Always follow your biosecurity procedures:*** Always use your dedicated footwear/coveralls or PPEs according to your business' procedures, regardless if it required by the producer, yard or processor.

Protect yourself from being the one to spread disease!

Symptoms of PEDv and PDCOV can include vomiting and diarrhea. If you notice these symptoms at a farm, notify the producer.

If you have additional questions or concerns, please reach out to info@swinehealthontario.ca. Biosecurity resources can be found here: www.swinehealthontario.ca/Biosecurity. If you need mental health support during this time, please reach out to the Farmer Wellness Initiative at 1-866-267-6255 or farmerwellnessinitiative.ca.