

Some **Quick Facts** About **Porcine Epidemic Diarrhoea (PEDv)**

Porcine Epidemic Diarrhoea (PEDv) is a diarrhoeal disease caused by a virus that infects the small intestines of the pig causing severe vomiting and diarrhoea.

- PEDv occurs only in pigs, affects pigs of any age and spreads rapidly leading to death in up to 100% of pigs younger than four weeks of age and delays growth in farrowing pigs six to eight weeks old.
- Diarrhoea and vomiting in older pigs result in reduced growth and financial losses.
- The disease develops over two days and diarrhoea can last for up to 14 days.
- PEDv was diagnosed in the United States for the first time about 18 months ago. However, PEDv has been present in Europe and Asia for some 40 years.
- PEDv cases are increasing in the USA and other parts of the world but, PEDv **IS NOT** in Jamaica. The closest country is the Dominican Republic.
- PEDv is not a zoonotic disease so it cannot be passed from animals to humans and in no way affects humans, other animals nor food safety.
- A vaccine has now been developed and is being used in the United States. However, this vaccine is not being used in Jamaica as vaccinated animals could become carriers of the disease.



HOW DOES PEDV SPREAD?

Through contaminated manure/faeces and anything that came in contact with the contaminated items.

HOW IS PEDV DIAGNOSED?

Samples of oral fluids and faeces are needed for testing and diagnosis at a lab only.

WHY DOES PEDV NEED URGENT ATTENTION?

The entire pig population is at risk. PEDv spreads rapidly.

- PEDv is **NO THREAT** to humans
- **No symptoms of PEDv reported in Jamaica**
- **Local surveillance system heightened**
- **JPFA now working closely with the VSD, Quarantine and Import units of the MoAF as well as the air and sea ports to protect Jamaica's borders**

WHAT IS JAMAICA DOING TO PREVENT PEDV?

The Veterinary Services Division (VSD) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MoAF) is fully aware of the situation. In consultation with the JPFA and stakeholders in the private, public and development sectors, discussions have already begun with the view of forming a working group should our surveillance system dictates in order to protect Jamaica's borders, prevent and control the disease.

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES TO PREVENT AND MANAGE PEDV?

Strict biosecurity is critical for the prevention and control of PEDv. The following measures are recommended:

- Establish quarantine periods for new animals coming onto farms, into groups or facilities
- Wash and disinfect transportation, storage crates or other equipment entering your facility
- Allow **ONLY** essential personnel to enter animal buildings/areas
- Use boot and/or wheel baths at entrances/exits to disinfect
- Provide protective clothing and footwear for service personnel and other visitors who **MUST** enter the facility
- Secure buildings to keep out all wild and domestic animals
- Maintain high standards of sanitation in animal housing areas
- Actively observe pigs. Isolate sick animals. Dispose of dead pigs
- Report all suspected cases to the JPFA or VSD immediately

For Further Information, Please Contact:

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