

## CLASSICAL SWINE FEVER (CSF) Q&A

### What is Classical Swine Fever?

Classical Swine Fever (CSF or Hog Cholera) is a highly contagious disease of wild and domestic pigs.<sup>1</sup> CSF is a serious disease of pigs, but does not pose a risk to public health or food safety.

**Humans cannot contract Classical Swine Fever.**<sup>2</sup>

The disease severity depends on the strain of the virus. Infection causes fever, inappetence, and hemorrhage (bleeding) of the internal organs. Acute infections cause variable rates of morbidity (illness) and mortality (death). Chronic infections may only affect a few animals in a herd, and those animals may not even show symptoms of the disease.<sup>3</sup>

### How is CSF spread?

There are two modes of transmission for CSF: direct contact and indirect contact (fomites).

Direct transmission occurs when an infected pig comes into contact with an uninfected pig. Indirect transmission occurs when the virus is transmitted via a fomite, such as contaminated feed or persons carrying the virus on their clothing or shoes. Indirect transmission can also occur if pigs eat food waste that contains infected pork products.<sup>4</sup>

### Does CSF exist in the United States?

Classical Swine Fever does not exist in the United States. It was eradicated from the U.S. in 1978.<sup>5</sup>

### Why is CSF such a concern to the U.S. pork industry?

Classical Swine Fever cannot be spread to humans, so it is not a threat to public health, nor is it a food safety concern. However, the acute form of the disease is deadly to pigs.

Because of this high mortality, the World Organization for Animal Health considers CSF a “notifiable disease,” therefore it is a trade-limiting foreign animal disease of swine. Countries with confirmed cases of CSF are subject to international trade restrictions, which help reduce the introduction of the disease to other countries via trade.<sup>6</sup> However, the U.S. exports approximately 27% of all pork products, therefore trade is very important to the industry.<sup>7</sup> Re-introduction of the disease in the U.S. would likely have a devastating economic impact on the industry.

### Does CSF pose a risk to humans?

Classical Swine Fever cannot be spread to humans, so it is not a threat to public health, nor is it a food safety concern.<sup>8</sup>

### Helpful Links:

National Pork Board Website: <https://www.pork.org/production/animal-disease/foreign-animal-disease-resources/>

United States Department of Agriculture’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service: [https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-disease-information!/ut/p/z0/fc7NDoIwEATgp-FIthiDeiRqwJ94hl6aFYuslhbagvr2kp48efxmJ5MFD-iVwjRPd0ZPRqGZXPBWxzJuz9TI55\\_tdwrJiczgVq5SxfAFH4P8L8wI9hoFnwGujvXx7KLFvyYIA7YWiQ0X7iZhDYUYrGIOPLqg1dahEK1H59je5kZPopCDdGNuFZ-fzi7SMWK3QOarjwLiRk7TQP3n1BVci-44!/](https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-disease-information!/ut/p/z0/fc7NDoIwEATgp-FIthiDeiRqwJ94hl6aFYuslhbagvr2kp48efxmJ5MFD-iVwjRPd0ZPRqGZXPBWxzJuz9TI55_tdwrJiczgVq5SxfAFH4P8L8wI9hoFnwGujvXx7KLFvyYIA7YWiQ0X7iZhDYUYrGIOPLqg1dahEK1H59je5kZPopCDdGNuFZ-fzi7SMWK3QOarjwLiRk7TQP3n1BVci-44!/)

World Organization for Animal Health (OIE): [http://www.oie.int/index.php?id=169&L=0&htmfile=chapitre\\_csf.htm](http://www.oie.int/index.php?id=169&L=0&htmfile=chapitre_csf.htm)

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**Helpful Links:**

- <sup>1, 2, 3, 8</sup> The Center for Food Security and Public Health, Iowa State University. <http://www.cfsph.iastate.edu/DiseaseInfo/disease.php?name=classical-swine-fever>. Accessed June 18, 2019.
- <sup>4</sup> United States Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service: Classical Swine Fever. [https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-disease-information!/ut/p/z0/fc7NDoIwEATgp-FIthiDeiRqwJ94hl6aFYuslhbagvr2kp48efxmJ5MFD-iVwjRPd0ZPRqGZXPBWxzJuz9TI55 tdwrJiczgVq5SxfAFH4P8L8wI9hoFnwGujvXx7KLFvyYIA7YWiQ0X7iZhDYUYrGIOPLgq1dahEK1H59je5kZPopCDdGNuFZ-fzi7SMWK3QOarjwLiRk7TQP3n1BVci-44!/. Accessed June 18, 2019.](https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-disease-information!/ut/p/z0/fc7NDoIwEATgp-FIthiDeiRqwJ94hl6aFYuslhbagvr2kp48efxmJ5MFD-iVwjRPd0ZPRqGZXPBWxzJuz9TI55 tdwrJiczgVq5SxfAFH4P8L8wI9hoFnwGujvXx7KLFvyYIA7YWiQ0X7iZhDYUYrGIOPLgq1dahEK1H59je5kZPopCDdGNuFZ-fzi7SMWK3QOarjwLiRk7TQP3n1BVci-44!/)
- <sup>5, 6</sup> World Organization for Animal Health (OIE): OIE-listed diseases, infections, and infestations in force in 2019. <http://www.oie.int/animal-health-in-the-world/oie-listed-diseases-2019/>. Accessed June 18, 2019.
- <sup>7</sup> United States Meat Export Federation, Frequently Asked Questions. 2017. <https://www.usmef.org/about-usmef/faq/>. Accessed May 28, 2019