



Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea (PED) - A Little Background¹

Have you noticed the price of bacon, lately? One of the forces driving the rise in pork prices is a disease called 'Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea' (PED). PED has existed in swine from China and Europe for several years. In April 2013, it was diagnosed in swine from the US (now-more than 20 states, including NYS and Canada). Those who raise swine should take time to consult with their veterinarian about how they can lessen the chances of their swine becoming infected.

What causes Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea (PED)? A virus

Can PED infect people? There is no evidence that the PED virus can infect people, or make people ill.

How is PED spread? This virus is largely shed in the manure of infected swine, effective means of spread include:

- ~Manure contaminated objects, such as (but not limited to):
 - *Vehicles (for example, tires)
 - *Boots & Clothing
 - *Equipment (tractors, shovels, scrapers...etc.)
 - *Contaminated feed and water.
- ~Markets, buying stations & means of swine transport are considered major avenues of exposure to PED virus.

Click [here](#) for an article about PED with pig feed concerns.

After being exposed, how long does it take for susceptible swine to show signs of PED? Approximately 2-4 days

Signs & course of PED virus infection (in newly infected swine herds):

- ~Many sick pigs, 100% of swine can be infected on first exposure (no immunity)
- ~Rapid development of diarrhea
- ~Vomiting
- ~'Death rate'; 80-100 % *in young pigs*
- ~In animals that recover, protective immunity develops over a 2-3 week period.

How can your veterinarian diagnose PED?

- ~Signs of the disease
- ~Herd history
- ~Laboratory testing

[Additional References \(click on the name\)](#)

[National Pork Check-Off](#)

[AA Swine Veterinarians](#)

[National Hog Farmers](#)

Prevention:

- ~[USDA reports](#) there is no approved vaccine to immunize a herd against PED. Currently there is ongoing research to develop an effective vaccine to be used in the US.
- ~Currently, strict, bio-security, is the best way to minimize the chance of introducing PED virus to your herd. Work with your veterinarian to develop a bio-security plan tailored to your swine herd needs.
- ~Immunity; sows with immunity will transfer that immunity to their piglets, other swine, once recovered, should have developed immunity to PED virus infection.

Treatment:

- ~Supportive, consult your veterinarian.