



Immediate Notification on African Swine Fever

IMMEDIATE BAN of personal importation of pork and pork products

What is African swine fever?

African swine fever ("**ASF**") is a highly contagious disease and the only known DNA arbovirus that infects and kills wild and domestic pigs. ASF is not a risk to human health but affects animal welfare, causes severe production and economic losses, and can threaten food security. Fiji is free from ASF. Carelessness can bring and spread the disease in Fiji.

Occurrence of ASF

ASF is enzootic in most countries such as Asia, Africa and Europe. There has been recent outbreak of ASF in China, Mongolia and EU countries such as Belgium, Romania, Latvia and Bulgaria. While millions or even billions of people are travelling to celebrate the Lunar New Year with family and friends, the World Organisation for Animal Health ("**OIE**") urges each of us to respect basic rules to avoid further spread of the epidemic.

Why it should not enter into Fiji?

Even though it is not a danger to human health, it can lead to severe economic losses for pork production. Moreover, there is no treatment and vaccine against it thus leaving no prevention strategies. Thus if this disease enters Fiji, it will require culling of all pigs to eradicate or control the spread.

How is it transmitted?

As per Chinese calendar this is the Year of the Pig 2019, which leads to massive movement of human, swine populations and products and thus poses a high-risk period for the transboundary spread of the disease.

Transmission of the disease is strongly linked to the movement of domestic and wild pigs, as well as pork products. It can also occur via contaminated materials, feed and fomites, such as shoes, clothes, vehicles or equipment due to the high resistance of ASF virus in the environment. It is transmitted directly between sick and healthy animals through contact, indirectly transmitted through feeding on contaminated meat and soft ticks.

Which Animals can spread swine fever?

Hosts of the virus are African wild Swine, bush pigs, giant forest hogs, domestic pigs, European wild boar and American wild pigs.

How can animal get ASF?

ASF is spread by contaminated blood, tissues, secretions and excretions of sick and dead animals, animals which have recovered from either acute or chronic infections may become persistently infected, acting as virus carriers; especially in African wild swine, and in domestic pigs in enzootic areas. It is also spread by soft ticks.

Hunters and pig farms can easily spread the disease through improper hygiene, lack of personal protective equipment and carelessness.

What you can do to prevent ASF from entering Fiji?

From normal travellers, to farmers and customs officers, we all have a role to play to avoid carrying the deadly virus across regional or national borders. Commercial pig farms staff, pig farmers, hunters, transporters and customs check point staff are also involved in the prevention. Australia and New Zealand were only two countries allowed to safely export pork and pork products into Fiji, however, due to the limited traceability of the disease with personal consignments and the increased global transmission of ASF, personal importation of all pork and pork products is restricted from Australia and New Zealand until further notice. Importation of pork and pork products will be facilitated with personal import permit and veterinary certificates with the origin of New Zealand and Australia only.

SIMPLY RESPECT GENERAL PRECAUTIONS:








- Do not bring any pork and pork products for personal consumption into Fiji until further notice.
- If interested in importation of the pork and pork products, contact BAF on animalimports@baf.com.fj.
- Declare any suspicious case (dead or alive) to the Veterinary/ Biosecurity Services.
- Avoid carrying pigs or pork products.
- Clean and disinfect material and equipment coming in or out.
- Do not visit pig farms in affected areas.
- Ensure that all your workers and visitors are aware of biosecurity rules.
- Prevent direct or indirect contact with wild boar.
- If you are in regular contact with domestic pigs, do not hunt or approach wild pigs.
- Implement quarantine measures for new pigs on farms.
- Do not feed untreated swill or kitchen scraps containing meat to your pigs.

BAF's engagement in ASF

BAF's staff at the border has been more vigilant to prevent the introduction of ASF into Fiji. There are strict biosecurity measures taken place which involves:

- Ban of personal importation of pork products into Fiji until further notice.
- Inspection of baggage of suspected passengers.
- Inspection of all food and necessary transmissible items that can carry ASF.
- More vigilant and thorough inspection of flights or vessels from possible infected countries or transiting affected countries.
- Thorough investigation of disease status of exporting countries and developing necessary mitigation measures for safe importation of pork products.
- Importation of pork and pork products will be facilitated with personal import permit and veterinary certificate from respected country with origin of Australia and New Zealand only.

RESPECT GENERAL PRECAUTIONS

 <p>Clean and disinfect your equipment on site</p>	 <p>Clean and disinfect your hunting trophies before leaving the area</p>	 <p>Do not visit farms unless it is necessary</p>	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report any dead or sick wild boar to the Veterinary authorities. • Respect any ban on hunting imposed by authorities • If you are in regular contact with domestic pigs, do not hunt wild pigs.
 <p>Eviscerate shot wild boar in the designated dressing area of the hunting ground</p>	 <p>Do not leave food for wild boar</p>	 <p>Do not share home-made products from your hunt or feed them to animals</p>	

SOURCE: WWW.OIE.COM

For Further Information Please Contact:

Biosecurity Authority of Fiji on 3312512 or
 Animal Disease Surveillance-5997 or [email-info@baf.com.fj](mailto:info@baf.com.fj)
 or visit BAF website www.baf.com.fj
 Or www.oie.int/asf

