



# FIJI is ASF Free and We want to maintain Our Freedom from ASF

## Part 1

### What is African swine fever?

African swine fever (ASF) is a highly contagious haemorrhagic viral disease of domestic and wild pigs, which is responsible for serious economic and production losses. It is caused by a large DNA virus of the Asfarviridae family, which also infects ticks of the genus *Ornithodoros*. This transboundary animal disease (TAD) can be spread by live or dead pigs, domestic or wild, and pork products; furthermore, transmission can also occur via contaminated feed and fomites (non-living objects) such as shoes, clothes, vehicles, knives, equipment etc., due to the high environmental resistance of ASF virus. Currently there is no approved vaccine for ASF.

ASF is a disease listed in the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) Terrestrial Animal Health Code and must be reported to the OIE.

The global distribution of ASF has expanded rapidly in recent years, with the virus spreading from its origins in sub-Saharan Africa across Eastern Europe, much of Asia, and most recently being detected in the Pacific and the Americas.

### Transmission and spread

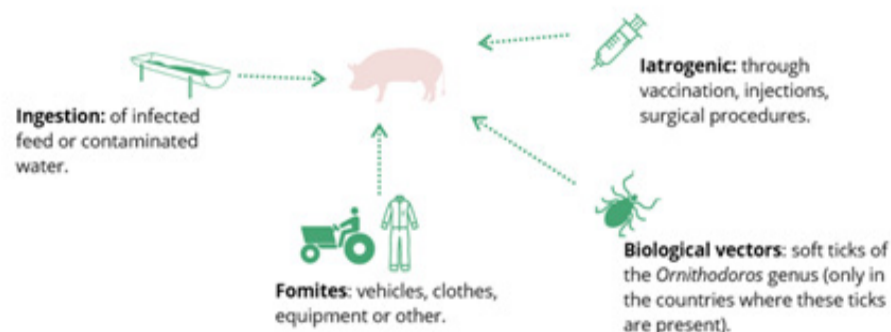
The epidemiology of ASF is complex and varies depending on the environment, types of pig production systems, the presence/absence of competent tick vectors, human behaviour, and the presence/absence of wild pigs.

Routes of transmission can include:

- direct contact with infected domestic or wild pigs
- indirect contact, through ingestion of contaminated material (e.g. food waste, feed, or garbage)
- contaminated fomites, or biological vectors (soft ticks of the genus *Ornithodoros*) where present.

Survival of ASF virus in pig meat and offal products is key to the potential for transmission of ASF internationally through human activities. The virus can survive up to 105 days in fresh meat, 300 days in cured meat and 1000 days in frozen meat.

BAF only allow commercial import of pork and pork products from Australia and New Zealand with Zoosanitary certificate to safeguard Fijian pig industry.



A common feature of many of these routes of transmission is that humans are involved!

Some examples of human actions leading to the transmission of ASF include the feeding of infected meat, movement of infected pigs, or movement of infected fomites such as dirty boots.

Conversely, changing human behaviors by promoting good biosecurity practices can prevent ASF transmission.

### Public health risk

ASF is not a risk to human health.

### Clinical signs

Clinical signs and mortality rates can vary according to the virulence of the virus and the type/species of pig:

Acute forms of ASF are characterised by high fever, depression, anorexia and loss of appetite, haemorrhages in the skin (redness of skin on ears, abdomen and legs), abortion in pregnant sows, cyanosis, vomiting, diarrhoea and death within 6-13 days (or up to 20 days). Mortality rates may be as high as 100%.

Subacute and chronic forms are caused by moderately or low virulent viruses, which produce less intense clinical signs that can be expressed for much longer periods. Mortality rates are lower, but can still range from 30-70%. Chronic disease symptoms include loss of weight, intermittent fever, respiratory signs, chronic skin ulcers and arthritis.

Different types of pig may have varying susceptibility to ASF virus infection. African wild suids may be infected without showing clinical signs allowing them to act as reservoirs.

### How you can help BAF prevent ASF incursion in Fiji

- Seek BAF Approval prior to importation of all Pork and Pork Products
- Currently personal importation of pork and pork products are prohibited thus requesting to passengers travelling to Fiji adhere to this BAF requirement to safeguard Fiji from ASF incursion.
- All importation of pork and pork products requires a BAF import permit and adherence to its conditions prior to importation, hence, kindly consult with your nearest BAF Office or use the below BAF contact details to seek BAF advice.

## AFRICAN SWINE FEVER

Don't be the carrier of a deadly pig disease 



### For Further Information Please Contact:

Biosecurity Authority of Fiji on 3312512 or Short Codes:  
General Enquiries - 5994, Termites - 5996, Giant Invasive Iguana (GII) - 5995,  
Animal Disease Surveillance - 5997 or email [info@baf.com.fj](mailto:info@baf.com.fj),  
visit BAF website [www.baf.com.fj](http://www.baf.com.fj)  
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