



General Biosecurity Practices for Non-farm Personnel

The introduction of porcine epidemic diarrhea virus (PEDV) into the United States highlights the need to follow important biosecurity steps in order to avoid infection on a farm. Diseases such as porcine epidemic diarrhea virus (PEDV) and porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome (PRRS) can create significant financial losses to producers. Therefore, it is very important that all farm visitors follow basic biosecurity steps to avoid introduction of PEDV or other swine disease pathogens.

Farm personnel who are not involved in day-to-day operations, but whose activities may necessitate a farm visit (inside or outside of the animal housing) include:

- State animal health authorities
- PQA Plus® advisors
- Swine extension specialists
- State and environmental management staff
- Support staff from supply or feed companies
- Maintenance specialists (e.g. electricians, plumbers, etc.)
- Veterinarians
- Nutritionists

Prior to visiting a farm:

Be informed

1. Contact the owner/manager of the farm to determine if there are any downtime requirements prior to visiting the farm. High-health status farms may require an extended period of downtime.
 - At a minimum, maintain an overnight period of downtime between farm visits.
 - » High-health status farms such as a boar stud may require additional nights downtime prior to a visit.
 - International travel may require up to five days downtime before a farm visit. (To view resources for downtime, visit pork.org/resources).
 - If you are ill with flu-like symptoms, postpone the farm visit until you are free of symptoms for at least 24 hours. Swine can get influenza virus from people.

2. Ask the owner/manager to detail any farm-specific biosecurity protocols that you will need to follow during the visit if different from the minimum standards listed earlier. Request information about the flow of animals on the farm.
3. Assess what activities will be required for the farm visit:
 - Will the visit involve only an outside assessment or will it involve entering into animal housing facilities?
 - Does the farm have shower facilities on site or will additional cover-up clothing and footwear be needed?
 - Always use the farm resources first before bringing in any additional items. Ask the farm manager prior to the visit if personal items can be brought in such as undergarments or a knee or ankle brace.
4. Ask about the current herd health status.
 - If the farm is undergoing a disease outbreak, work with the producer and herd veterinarian to postpone the visit until the herd has recovered.

Be prepared

1. Carry an adequate amount of supplies (disposable coveralls, boots, clipboard, pens, etc.) in the event the farm does not have them:
 - Store all clean coveralls and equipment in a clean tote box.
 - Keep garbage bags in the clean tote and place all used equipment/coveralls into the bag after the visit.
 - Place all used equipment and trash in a garbage bag in a separate location of the vehicle (keep used equipment away from clean equipment).
 - Store disinfectant wipes in the clean tote in order to disinfect equipment prior to and after a farm visit.
2. Prior to the visit, inspect the vehicle to verify that:
 - The exterior of the vehicle was washed and disinfected and was allowed to dry overnight from the last farm visit (wash vehicles at a municipal or local carwash).

- » Pay special attention to the wheel wells and undercarriage.
- The interior of the vehicle is free of dirt and debris and all trash is removed and the steering wheel is wiped down. Visit aasv.org for more specific information on disinfectants.

Downtime is the time away from other livestock including fairs, shows, sale barns, livestock farms or any other location that houses live swine. Extra downtime can also be needed for any international visitors.

At the farm:

Parking

1. Park in the designated parking area for the farm. Obey all signage regarding access to specific areas.
2. If no parking area exists, park in a location away from the livestock barn or waste-control area that is on gravel or hard surface or ear the edge of the public road close to the location.
3. Avoid parking or driving in muddy areas on the farm.
4. Keep windows shut to prevent pests from entering the vehicle.

Visiting the farm

1. If not entering animal housing areas and no farm clothing is provided, change into disposable coveralls and boots at the vehicle side. Make sure to put on first set of disposable boots before you get out of the vehicle and step on the ground. Double boots may be required depending upon terrain to avoid exposure from rips/tears. All equipment should be clean, disinfected, dry and ready to use prior to arriving at the farm.
 - Know and understand the concept of the Line of Separation.
 - Refer to *Establish a Line of Separation: Help Control the Spread of PEDV* fact sheet found at pork.org/PEDV



Line of Separation = line dividing the area that is to be used by the farm for live animals (often referred to as the *clean area*) and the area that is outside of the live animal area (the *dirty area*). Do not cross directly from outside of a farm into the live animal area.

2. If having to visit both the inside and outside of the farm, perform the inside farm visit first then finish with any outside assessment.
 - Follow all on-farm biosecurity steps to enter into the live-animal areas:
 - » Leave all of your personal items in the vehicle and do not bring them into the farm. Personal items include hats, ball caps, cell phones (and all other electronics), watches or jewelry.
 - » Do not bring any food or drink into the farm.

At the completion of the visit:

Prior to leaving

1. Contain all garbage and used equipment in a garbage bag and place in location away from the clean supplies.
2. For non-disposable equipment wipe down with disinfectant wipes and place in a separate bag for future cleaning.
3. Remove dirty boots and coveralls as you are entering the vehicle. Place in respective “dirty” containers or bags. Clean hands with wipes or hand sanitizer.
4. After you have left the farm, wash and disinfect the exterior of the vehicle to remove any mud and debris. Vacuum the interior of the vehicle and remove all trash and wipe down the steering wheel with a disinfectant wipe.

At home

1. If using cloth coveralls and rubber boots, clean and launder all clothing/footwear and allow for at least 24 hours downtime after cleaning and drying before use on another farm. Once fully clean (no organic matter visible), be sure to also disinfect rubber boots.
2. If the farm does not have a shower facility, shower at home and allow for overnight downtime at a minimum before going to another farm.

For additional resources about farm biosecurity, visit pork.org/PEDV.