



Swine dysentery: visitor policy

This advice is for anyone visiting a swine dysentery (SD) positive unit as defined by the BPEX Swine Dysentery Charter. This refers to farm staff and all visitors including veterinary surgeons, fieldsmen, relief stockmen, task teams, company representatives, maintenance workers, rodent services, cleaning and disinfection teams and advisers.

Non-essential visits to pig units with swine dysentery should be avoided.

The main risk is from contact with pigs, pig manure and slurry but remember that many areas of the farm may have become contaminated and represent a risk.

Before visit:

1. Prearrange your visit with the farm
2. Where possible arrange your visit away from the farm to avoid entering the pig unit
3. Leave your vehicle outside the unit periphery, do not take vehicle on site unless absolutely necessary in which case refer to in the SD vehicle biosecurity factsheet
4. Find out if protective clothing and footwear are available on farm and use them
5. If taking your own protective clothing and footwear, make sure you have the means to clean and disinfect on exit
6. Make visit at end of day/week if possible

During visit:

1. Use protective clothing and footwear provided by farm where available
2. Limit equipment taken on farm to essential items
3. Protect smaller items of equipment with use of plastic bags, plastic containers
4. Minimise contamination of equipment which will be taken off the farm
5. Leave as much disposable material on farm as possible
6. Minimise your contact with pigs and pig manure
7. Only visit areas of the farm necessary for your work
8. Wash hands as you leave the unit

After visit and before entering another pig unit:

1. Consider everything taken onto the unit (equipment, clothing, footwear) as contaminated
2. Clean and disinfect equipment, protective clothing and footwear before leaving the farm
3. Seal any equipment and clothing that has to be taken with you in waterproof bags, and clean and disinfect again away from the farm. Leave behind anything that can remain on the farm
4. Refer to advice on cleaning and disinfection to make sure it is effective
5. Contaminated vehicles and those which have been on site must be cleaned and disinfected, refer to transport advice
6. Shower, including hair wash and ensure a complete change of clothes
7. Leave as long as possible before visiting another pig unit, but ideally do not visit another pig unit until the following day at the earliest

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