



# Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea

JAN 2014

ANIMAL HEALTH PROGRAM

## Animal Health Unit

The Animal Health Unit is responsible for health monitoring and diagnosis of disease in both wildlife and domestic animals. The staff provide expertise in laboratory services and in veterinary medicine to support public and animal health.

The Animal Health Unit and Laboratory are located in the Department of Environment at 10 Burns Road, Whitehorse, Yukon.

## Contact

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## Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea (PED)

Porcine epidemic diarrhea (PED) is a viral disease of pigs that causes diarrhea and vomiting in pigs of any age, and high death losses in suckling piglets. **This disease poses no risk to human health or food safety, and does not affect animals other than pigs.**

## PED in Canada

PED has affected pig farms in the USA since spring 2013. The first PED case in Canada was found on a pig farm in Ontario on January 22, 2014. The source of the virus for the Ontario case is not known at this time. The affected herd in Ontario is currently under voluntary movement restrictions. The virus that causes PED is very difficult to contain, and may spread to other Canadian farms. The PED virus can be spread between farms by equipment or vehicles contaminated by pig manure or by the movement of infected pigs. Currently, there is no treatment for PED, but the best defence is strict biosecurity for pig herds.

## How can you protect your pigs?

Biosecurity is the best tool to protect pig herds from PED. Develop and maintain a biosecurity protocol for your farm. Impose restrictions on the movement of equipment, vehicles, animals, and people onto and around your farm. Develop cleaning and disinfection protocols for vehicles, equipment, and people entering your farm and farm buildings. Post signage around your farm to direct visitors, and keep track of all visitors to your farm using a logbook.

Before importing pigs or piglets in the spring, become informed about possible health issues and consider the health status of the herd you are purchasing from. Farmers with high value pigs may consider not importing pigs from herds from outside Yukon this year. Contact the Animal Health Unit or your veterinarian for more information on biosecurity. For more details visit the [Canadian Swine Health Board webpage](#).

For more information about porcine epidemic diarrhea see the [PED news release](#) on the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food website, the [PED fact sheet](#) on the Canadian Swine Health Board website, or contact your veterinarian.

## **Is there a PED vaccination available?**

There is no PED vaccination currently available in Canada for pigs. A vaccine has been developed and used in the USA, but it is not 100% effective. An emergency licence to allow the vaccination to be used in Canada may come into effect in the near future.

## **What should I do if I think my pigs are sick?**

If your pigs show signs of illness, especially vomiting or diarrhea, or if you see an increased number of death losses, contact a veterinarian as soon as possible. Testing for PED is now available at several laboratories across Canada, and your veterinarian can work with you to collect and submit samples if your animals show signs of disease. Yukon veterinarians have access to up to date information on PED, and are an important resource for your livestock health questions. The Animal Health Unit works closely with Yukon veterinarians to promote and protect the health of Yukon livestock.