



Pork in Singapore is safe to eat

1 The Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority (AVA) has detected Pandemic A/H1N1 2009 in samples from pigs imported from the farm on Pulau Bulan.

2 **AVA would like to assure Singaporeans that the pork available in Singapore is safe for consumption as we would ensure that only healthy pigs are exported to Singapore.** H1N1 virus is not transmitted through the handling and consumption of pork and pork products, including ham, bacon, sausages and canned pork. Nevertheless, AVA is stepping up its monitoring and inspection to ensure food safety in Singapore.

3 World health authorities, namely the World Health Organisation (WHO), World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and Food & Agriculture Organisation (FAO), have jointly stated that:

- *“...Pork and pork products, handled in accordance with good hygienic practices will not be a source of infection.”*
- *“There is no evidence that the H1N1 virus is transmitted by food.”*
- *“Influenza viruses are not known to be transmissible to people through eating processed pork or other food products derived from pigs.”*
- *“Heat treatments commonly used in cooking meat (e.g. 70°C core temperature) will readily inactivate any viruses potentially present in raw meat products”*

Risk management measures

4 Since April 2009, AVA has put in place an early warning system for the emergence of the disease in live pigs. These include measures such as additional farm inspections, enhanced inspection at the abattoir as well as sampling and testing for H1N1 prior to export and upon arrival. The Pulau Bulan farm has also implemented bio-security measures against the H1N1 virus such as temperature taking and restriction of visitors at the farm.

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5 Upon detection of H1N1 through our surveillance programme, AVA has put in place enhanced measures. These include weekly farm inspections and increased pre-export testing.

6 AVA will also participate in a comprehensive disease surveillance programme on the farm which will be led by the Indonesian Authority, the Directorate-General of Livestock Services, to identify and isolate affected pig houses. Restricted animal movement will be imposed to ensure **only healthy pigs continue to be exported to Singapore**. This is in line with the World Organisation for Animal Health's (OIE) recommendation that movement restrictions be applied until the pigs have recovered. The Canadian and Australian veterinary authorities have since adopted similar approaches after H1N1 was detected on their pig farms in April 2009 and July 2009 respectively.

Public Enquiries

7 Members of the public with enquiries can call AVA's hotline at 6325 7625 (8.30 am – 6.00 pm, Monday to Friday) or email AVA at ava_enquiries@ava.gov.sg.

Background information

8 AVA has accredited adequate sources of pork supply in 25 countries, including our major suppliers of Australia and Brazil for chilled and frozen pork. Singapore's import of 1,000 pigs daily from Pulau Bulan constitutes 21% of our total pork consumption.

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