

Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea:

A gastrointestinal virus of swine is spreading across the country and recently has been identified in Canada. No cases have been diagnosed in Alaska. The Porcine Epidemic Virus (PEDv) is endemic in Europe and Asia but has not been present in the US until it was first diagnosed in Iowa (May 2013). Morbidity and mortality can vary, being lower in adult swine but may approach 100%, especially in piglets, resulting in devastating losses for swine producers. PEDv, a corona virus is very similar to Transmissible Gastroenteritis (TGE) and is spread primarily through fecal contamination. Corona viruses have an envelope around the nuclear material and in general enveloped viruses are much less likely to survive in a clean environment because the envelope deteriorates rapidly but PEDv is very infectious so it doesn't have to last long in the environment to infect the next pig.

PEDv is not a reportable disease but farmers and animal health officials are working together to stop the spread of the disease. There are no commercial vaccines available so **Biosecurity** is the key to reduce your risk of preventing this virus from entering your farm. PEDv only affects pigs no other animals are affected by the virus including humans so it is not a public health threat; however, people, other animals, as well as contaminated vehicles, trailers, and equipment can carry the virus from farm to farm. Contact your local veterinarian or this office, (907) 375-8215, if you have questions or concerns regarding the health of your pigs.

The Office of the State Veterinarian has added an additional importation requirement to prevent PEDv from entering Alaska. Veterinarian's issuing a Certificate of Veterinarian Inspection (CVI) for swine entering the state are required to include the statement *"To the best of my knowledge, swine represented on this certificate have not originated from a premises known to be affected by Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea virus (PEDv), and have not been exposed to PEDv within the last 30 days"*.

Resources:

- <http://www.aasv.org/>
- <http://www.ipic.iastate.edu/>
- <http://www.pork.org/filelibrary/PEDV-WhatIsIt%20v2.pdf>
- http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/animal_dis_spec/swine/downloads/ped_tech_note.pdf