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**GENERAL SECRETARIAT OF ANIMAL HEALTH**

Mexico-United States Commission for Prevention of Foot-and-Mouth Disease  
and other Animal Exotic Diseases

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## **CLASSICAL SWINE FEVER**

Classical swine fever, also known as “hog cholera”, is a highly contagious viral disease that only affects domestic and wild pigs, and it is characterized by purplish spots in the skin of infected animals.

### **What is its geographical distribution?**

This disease is located in some Central and South American, European, Asian and African countries.

### **Who or what causes it?**

It is caused by a *Pestivirus* genus virus of the Flaviviridae family, which has a single serotype with low and high virulence strains.

### **How is the virus transmitted?**

The virus is found in secretions and excreta of infected animals (saliva, nasal fluids, semen, urine and feces), and in large amounts in blood, organs and tissues. It can be transmitted by direct contact or by fomites, like individuals, vehicles, materials or equipment, and also through mechanical vectors such as birds or insects, and even through uncooked meat from infected animals.

### **What are the clinical signs?**

Low virulence strains do not cause important signs or go unnoticed, while high virulence strains cause fever, loss of appetite, vomit, oversleeping, conjunctivitis, constipation followed by diarrhea, purple or purplish skin coloration (mainly in ears, belly and thighs), weakness, loss of coordination, huddling of sick animals and convulsions.

The death of pigs occurs between 7 and 21 days after the onset of the disease, although there are chronic cases in which clinical signs fluctuate over a more extended period.

### **How is the disease diagnosed?**

It is difficult to clinically distinguish classical swine fever from other diseases such as African swine fever, Aujeszky disease, porcine respiratory and reproductive syndrome, porcine circovirus and some septicemias or intoxications, since the signs are similar; therefore, it is necessary to diagnose in an official laboratory.

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**How can it be prevented?**

Mexico has been free of classical swine fever since 2012; thus, it is necessary to control the import of pigs and their products and byproducts, and bolster biosafety measures in Pig Production Units (PPUs), for example:

- Establish sanitary protocols for all individuals entering the PPU.
- Wash and disinfect all vehicles entering the PPU.
- Use sanitary mats at the main entrance and each and every section.
- Check the herd daily to detect pigs with suggestive clinical signs.
- Do not mobilize diseased or dead pigs outside the PPU. Those animals must be isolated or disposed of in sanitary conditions, as the case may be.
- Periodically wash and disinfect facilities, materials and equipment.
- Consider establishing a sanitary vacuum period between each productive cycle.
- Implement procedures to control wildlife and eliminate noxious fauna.

SENASICA carries out a permanent epidemiological surveillance aimed to timely detect animal diseases endangering livestock assets and the public health of our country.

Report immediately to the official veterinarian services about any suspicious case; an official veterinarian will visit the production unit, obtain the samples for laboratory diagnosis and give the appropriate instructions.

Contact us for more information or to report any suspicious cases:

Emergency phone: 01 (800) 751 2100  
(24 hours/day - 365 days/year)

Phone: 01 (55) 5905 1000  
(Extensions 51235, 51242 and 51243)

E-mail addresses:  
sive.dgsa@senasica.gob.mx  
gestioncpa.dgsa@senasica.gob.mx

You can also report at any SADER or SENASICA offices, or at the Regional Coordination Offices of the CPA closest to your community.