

OFFLU

Applied Epidemiology Group



- The group first met in September, 2008
- Agreement to include in the scope of work all AI viruses not only H5N1
- Expanded OFFLU mandate on Animal Influenza Viruses



Objectives

- Review of the epidemiological efforts addressing surveillance and control of avian influenza
 - Compile a list of on-going projects related to HPAI
 - Identify gaps, potential overlaps
 - OIE Regional Representations
- Provide advice on disease control strategies, disease surveillance and risk analysis
 - At the request of the OFFLU Steering Committee



Objectives

- Molecular epidemiology
 - Encourage sharing of geo-referenced isolate data for the purpose for further analysis
 - Support analysis of circulating strains at the regional level
 - Cooperate with the vaccine quality assurance group to provide recommendations on the selection of appropriate vaccine strains, based on the analysis of the diversity of strains



Objectives

- Support investigation of significant events and trends identified through OIE and FAO (GLEWS/OFFLU laboratory network)
- Explore available options for linking epidemiological and sequence data and propose recommendations



OFFLU/WHO teleconference: surveillance issues around novel influenza A/H1N1 and the human animal interface



Objective

- Discuss surveillance approaches for novel influenza A/H1N1 virus in swine
 - Held in May, 2009
 - epidemiologists and experts in swine and human influenza from the human and animal health sectors

Surveillance, monitoring and epidemiological studies

- Confusion of terms
- Choice of approach depends on the objective
 - Need to define a clear objective
 - Surveillance implies a response
 - Epidemiological studies and monitoring generate information that may or may not trigger a response

**Clinical
surveillance**

Random or Targeted

**Serological
surveillance**

**Virological
surveillance**

Surveillance approaches

- The novel influenza A/H1N1 virus is not an OIE listed disease
 - However countries are encouraged to notify findings in pigs
 - Emerging disease
- Virological surveillance most appropriate
- Serological methods cannot distinguish from other H1 viruses that may be circulating in swine

Objectives of surveillance Monitoring?

- Determine if the novel H1N1 virus strain currently exists in swine
- If present, determine the distribution to inform further policy decisions
- Detect other novel influenza virus strains in swine in a timely manner
- Determine genetic characteristics of novel viruses necessary for vaccine and diagnostics development

Surveillance approaches

- Targeted surveillance aimed at:
 - Swine populations epidemiologically linked to a human case of novel influenza A/H1N1 cases.
 - Case-compatible swine accessions submitted to veterinary diagnostic laboratories
 - Surveillance of sick pigs at first points of concentration or commingling events.



Guidelines for surveillance

- OFFLU will draft guidelines for surveillance
 - Based on FAO guidelines
 - Others (EU, USDA...)



Response

- Destruction of pigs for disease control purposes is unwarranted
- Trade restrictions should not be applied
 - Pork and pork products do not contain virus
- Enhanced communication and cooperation between animal and human health authorities

