

ANNOUNCEMENT made by the Belgian Food Agency
The “swine influenza virus” is no longer a “swine virus “
26 April 2009

The Belgian Federal Agency for the Safety of the Food Chain and the Interministerial Commission Influenza wish to emphasize that although the name “swine influenza” was frequently used in the press, the current events are not at all related to pigs.

In fact, the virus that causes the current outbreaks in Mexico and in the United States is no longer a swine virus. It is a genetic recombination of several strains of virus types that are endemic in humans, birds and pigs. As yet, this virus has never been isolated in pigs.

Hence, contacts with pigs or eating pork or derived products thereof do not involve any risk.

Veterinarians and pig farmers should nevertheless, as always, remain vigilant when it comes to detecting and identifying diseases in their sector.

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