

Advice 34-2009 of the Scientific Committee of the FASFC on surveillance modalities of the pandemic influenza A/H1N1 (2009) virus and of porcine influenza viruses in swine

Referring to advice 24-2009 on the assessment of the veterinary impact and of the zoonotic risk of porcine influenza viruses in general and of the pandemic human influenza A/H1N1 (2009) virus in particular in Belgium, the importance to establish a surveillance program in the porcine sector and its modalities are evaluated. Since the publication of advice 24-2009, the epidemiological situation in man and in the porcine population has evolved.

The Scientific Committee recommends to establish an active virological surveillance of pandemic influenza A/H1N1 (2009) virus targeted on the presence of acute clinical respiratory signs in pigs. A virological follow-up sampling is recommended to follow the evolution of the virus in order to detect potential mutations.

A sampling plan is proposed. It is recommended to carry out RT PCR analyses to identify the causal viral subtype, and to perform a molecular sequencing as confirmation test. The isolation and the typing of the virus are also recommended to identify and detect potential mutations which could have negative public health consequences.

The Scientific Committee insists on the importance of the early notification of acute respiratory clinical signs in survie by the farmers and the veterinarians. The establishment of a protocol for the differential diagnosis of porcine respiratory diseases is also recommended. In case of detection of the pandemic influenza A/H1N1 (2009) virus, no particular measures are recommended, except of the recommendations to limit the spread and zoonotic transmission of the virus.

The full text is available on this website in dutch and in french, respectively under the section "Wetenschappelijk Comité/Adviezen" and "Comité scientifique/Avis".