

## Ways to prevent Salmonellosis in humans

- Wash hands properly after handling pigs and before handling food.
- Cook all foods thoroughly.
- Prevent cross-contamination of heat treated foods.
- Store heat-treated foods at  $<4^{\circ}\text{C}$  or  $>60^{\circ}\text{C}$  to prevent growth.
- Prevent sick persons (especially with diarrhea) from handling food.
- Control rodents and insects.
- Dispose of sewage in a sanitary manner to prevent access to pigs.



Ensure that pork is properly cooked before eating.

## Veterinary Services Division MANDATE

- Keeping exotic diseases out of Jamaica
- Safeguarding the Livestock Industry
- Facilitating Trade
- Improving Public Health
- Enhancing Food Safety
- Promoting Animal Welfare

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Ministry of Agriculture  
and Fisheries

**VETERINARY SERVICES DIVISION**



# Salmonellosis in Pigs

*"Ensuring healthy animals for a healthier you"*

## What is Salmonellosis and what causes it?

Salmonellosis is an intestinal disease caused by a group of bacteria known as Salmonella (SAL-moh-NEL-uh). There are many different types but mainly *S. choleraesuis* is the most common salmonella species affecting pigs. The bacteria are shed in the feces of infected pigs and can cause diarrheal illness.

### What Causes it

All ages of pigs are susceptible, but the disease is most common in weaned and growing-finishing pigs. Pigs at highest risk of disease are usually under stressful conditions, such as inadequate feed or water, transportation, drought, overcrowding birthing and some drugs.



A view of Salmonella under the microscope

## How can my pigs get Salmonellosis?

Pigs get infected with the bacteria from contamination of feed, water, milk, fresh and processed meats from abattoirs, plant and animal products (used as fertilizer or feed-stuff) with feces from infected animals via:

1. Ingestion
2. Inanimate objects (fomites)
3. Wild birds and rodents

### *These are the signs of Salmonellosis in:*

#### **Weaning pigs**

- Diarrhea
- A dark-red to purple discolouration of the skin
- Septicaemia

#### **Growing-Finishing pigs**

- Fever (40.5-41.5° C)
- Liquid feces that may be yellow with shreds of blood



## How can I protect my pigs from Salmonellosis?

- Always try to purchase pigs from Salmonella-free herds and use of the “all in/all out” system in finishing units to lessen exposure.
- Thorough cleaning and disinfection of facilities and eliminate the sources of the bacteria can lessens the likelihood of outbreaks.
- If there is an outbreak, antimicrobials can be given in the feed or water to lessen the severity of the outbreak.
- Control of access to pests such as rodents and birds are also helpful.



Diarrhea (scours) in a pig.