

Swine Health Producer Guide



Guidelines for Diagnosis of PED Virus

Key Points

The recent introduction of the Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea (PED) virus into the United States has greatly increased the risk of spreading disease for pig producers.

- When sow farms are first infected, all ages of pigs develop diarrhea and suckling pigs will die.
- The severity of piglet diarrhea will usually decrease over time in infected sow farms.
- After weaning, diarrhea from PED virus can be either severe or mild like other diseases.

Accurate diagnosis through proper testing is **essential** to know a herd's infection status.

- PED virus cannot be contained without knowing where the virus is present.
- Knowing the infection status of herds or sites will help all of us manage our biosecurity practices and control protocols.

Contact your herd veterinarian if you suspect PED.

Guidelines for sow herds

Do piglets or sows have diarrhea?

YES → PED virus is a differential

Sow herd: collect feces from piglets or sows acutely affected with diarrhea

Minimum: PCR on 3 pools of feces: Each fecal pool composed of feces from 5 diarrheic pigs from different litters or locations.

Optional: Submit live pigs or pig tissues, along with pools of feces to a laboratory

NO or not much looseness → PED virus may be harder to detect

Sow herd: collect feces from any pigs with diarrhea and older piglets with soft feces

Minimum: 3 pools of feces: Each fecal pool composed of feces from the 5 loosest pigs from different litters in farrowing rooms

Optional: Serum from at least 10 dams (highly recommended) and/or submit live pigs or pig tissues, along with pools of feces and serum

Guidelines for weaned (nursery, grower, finisher) pigs

Do pigs have diarrhea?

YES → PED virus is a differential

Nursery / Grower / Finisher

Oral fluids and feces: At least 2 oral fluid samples AND 3 pools of 5 loose/diarrheic feces each

Optional: Submit representative pigs or pig tissues to a diagnostic laboratory

NO or not much → PED virus may be endemic/chronic or harder to detect

Nursery / Grower / Finisher

Oral fluids and feces: At least 2 oral fluid samples AND 3 pools of 5 feces from five of the loosest pigs in the barn
Optional: Serum from 10-15 pigs for serology (highly recommended)

