

Advice to Pig Workers Returning to Irish Pig Farms after Christmas 2014 – New Year 2015

Porcine Epidemic Diarrhoea (PED) and African Swine Fever (ASF) are diseases of pigs causing decimation of the pig industry in Eastern Europe in the past year. The pig industry in Ireland wishes to put in place a plan that would help ensure that either of these very contagious viruses is not brought back into Ireland after the holidays.

1. Try not to have any pig contact when you return to your home country for holidays.
2. Wild boar hunting is a significant leisure pursuit in Eastern European countries. We would advise that pig workers at home would desist from partaking in wild boar hunting while on holidays.
3. Clothing and footwear are the major vectors of PED. Any footwear that may have been worn while at home should be properly cleaned and disinfected and preferably not worn when you return to Ireland after the holidays.
4. A three-day gap should exist and be imposed on workers returning to work on Irish pig farms after the holidays. This could be verified using your return ticket as verification of travel arrangements.
5. Pork products and Salami-type meats are major vectors of CSF and ASF. Never bring foreign meats back to Ireland and never bring them in sandwiches or lunches onto Irish Pig Farms.

The pig industry in Ireland is your livelihood.

If either of these diseases is introduced to Ireland then wither could potentially close the Irish Pig Industry.

Be careful and be vigilant!

National Pig Health Council December 2014