

COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT'S
BIOSECURITY POLICY FOR
HOUSED COMMERCIAL SWINE FEEDING OPERATIONS

Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
4300 Cherry Creek Drive South
Denver, Colorado 80246-1530

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Introduction

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (“Department”) has agreed to the following guidelines to conduct inspections to minimize biosecurity risks to the animals in housed commercial swine feeding operations. These guidelines are necessary because state and local inspectors present an element of disease risk due to their other professional duties that may involve livestock. These guidelines are meant to reduce risk and yet allow inspectors to accomplish a meaningful inspection of a housed commercial swine feeding operation. These guidelines apply if the inspector enters the operation, not if the inspector remains outside of the property boundary of the operation.

For planned on-site inspections, the inspector will contact the company in advance of conducting the inspection to schedule a time and date convenient for both parties. The Department also responds to complaints and incidents that may occur. If it is not a serious incident, the inspector will use best efforts to contact the company and follow the below described protocol as long as the company uses best efforts to provide access to the operation as quickly as possible. Finally, this Biosecurity Protocol in no way impairs or limits the Department’s authority to respond to emergencies and/or enter any regulated operation with a search warrant.

On-Site Inspections

Inspectors will be accompanied to the inspection site by company personnel for any on-site inspections. The inspector will meet the company representative off-site and use a company vehicle to transport to the site of the inspection or will meet the company representative at the gate and transport onto the site of the inspection in a company vehicle.

An inspector will contact the company in order to schedule the site visit. This may take several days to obtain company approval. If the inspector needs to enter the facility more quickly, the inspector must work with the company to schedule a visit as soon as possible.

At least ninety six (96) hours must have elapsed between the inspector’s last visit within another company’s housed commercial swine feeding operation or with other commercial livestock operations, before inspecting a company’s housed commercial swine feeding operation. The inspector must ensure that any attire worn during the inspection be free of any animal waste or by-product.

The inspector shall bring the necessary local or state government identification to the inspection. The inspector shall sign any biosecurity waiver forms, but shall not sign any waiver of liability.

If the inspector has the need to move between operations owned by one company on the same day or consecutive days, the movement must be planned in such a manner that the moves occur down one production pyramid before crossing to another pyramid. The inspector will rely on the company’s guidance in planning such inspections.

If the inspector needs to have access into the swine confinement structure, an appointment must be made with a representative of the company. The visit within the structure will be managed according to the company's biosecurity policies in addition to the following requirements:

1. The inspector must shower in and out and declare when he or she last had contact with a hog. Clothing or footwear that was worn while in contact with swine may not be worn to another swine operation within ninety six (96) hours.
2. A shower and a change of clothes are required prior to admittance to the interior of a swine confinement structure.
3. Lunches, books, and equipment must be placed through the opening provided by the entrance. Any objects brought into the facility may be washed and disinfected, if necessary. Inspectors should bring wrapped disposable cameras or waterproof cameras if photographs are necessary as part of the inspection.
4. The interior of a swine confinement structure is reached only through the shower facility. The shower facility is in two parts, the dirty side and the clean side. One enters the facility through the dirty side of the shower. There is a place to leave clothing, caps, gloves, cameras, watches, and personal effects. "Showering-in" means that the inspector completely disrobes on the dirty side and then takes a complete shower. A complete shower includes scrubbing fingernails and washing hair. The inspector puts on clean farm clothing, provided by the company, on the clean side of the shower. After he or she is dressed in farm clothing, the inspector can enter the swine side or clean side of the shower.
5. Glasses may be worn on the swine facility. Glasses are to be washed during the "shower-in" procedure.

Access to Records

If the inspector needs to access the site's records, the inspector can obtain copies of the necessary records at the main office for the operation or on the dirty side of the counter at the facility entrance. No record keeping devices, documents, other articles will be transferred in or out of the visited confinement structures during the inspection. The company representative will be responsible for obtaining copies of any necessary documentation not available at the company's main office.