



# What is Swine Flu?



Swine flu is a respiratory disease, which means it's to do with breathing, that usually affects pigs.

# What Causes Swine Flu?



Swine Flu is caused by a strain of the influenza virus and is a bit like human flu.

The disease regularly breaks out among herds of pigs, but although it can make the animals very ill they normally survive.

# Can Humans Catch Swine Flu?



Swine flu doesn't usually affect humans and in the past, those who have had it have normally been in close contact with pigs.

But officials say this latest outbreak IS being passed from person to person and it's thought to be passed on in the same way as human flu... by coughing and sneezing.

# Outbreak of UK Swine Flu



Swine flu has spread rapidly in the UK during the second half of 2009. A lot of people are visiting the doctors to get advice and medicine.

As expected, many schools have been infected. People who are in contact with a lot of other people have also become infected.



# How Dangerous Is Swine Flu?



Symptoms of swine flu in people appear to be similar to those of human flu, including having a fever, cough, body aches or chills.

Most cases of swine flu appear to be mild. The people who have become very ill are people who are weak, or suffering from other illnesses.



# What's Being Done to Keep Us Safe?

Governments around the world are doing all they can to help people recover from swine flu.



The British government has got millions of doses of the flu medicine ready to treat people.

Meanwhile, scientists are also working on a medicine specifically designed to treat this latest strain of swine flu. The vaccination is expected to be ready soon.



# How Can We Minimise the Spread?

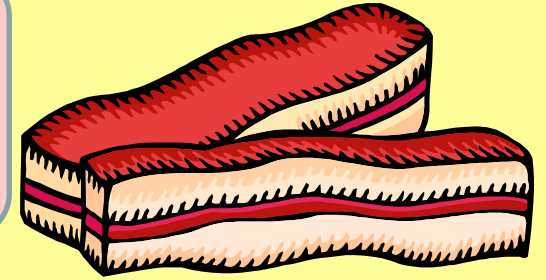
To reduce the risk of catching or spreading the virus you should:

- cover your mouth and nose when coughing and sneezing, using a tissue;
- throw the tissue away quickly and carefully;
- wash your hands regularly with soap and water;
- clean hard surfaces (like door handles and remote controls) frequently with a normal cleaning product;
- CATCH IT. BIN IT. KILL IT.**





# Is Pork Safe to Eat?



Yes. Officials say there's no evidence you can catch swine flu by eating meat from infected animals, but it's important to make sure it's cooked properly.

