

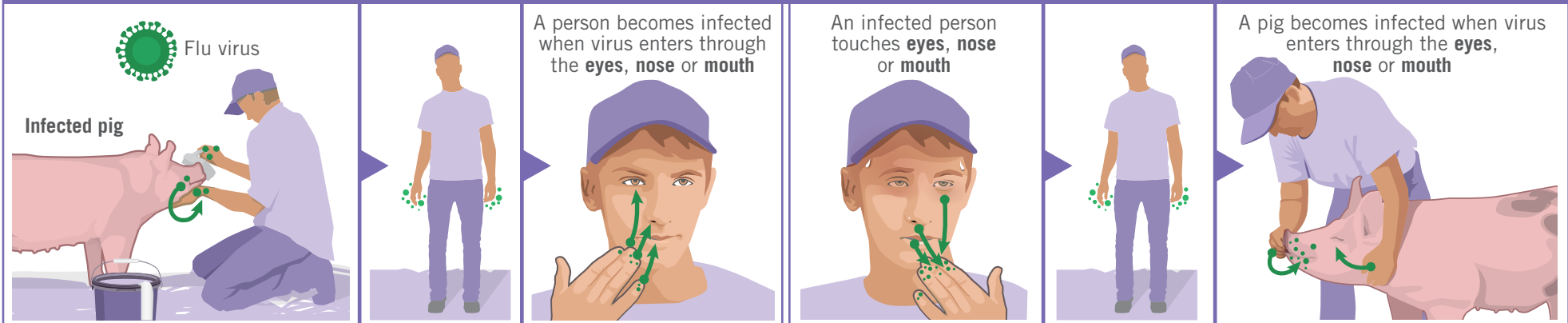
FLU CAN SPREAD BETWEEN PIGS AND PEOPLE

Information for people exposed to pigs, including people who enter the swine barns at agricultural fairs or people who raise pigs for show or farming

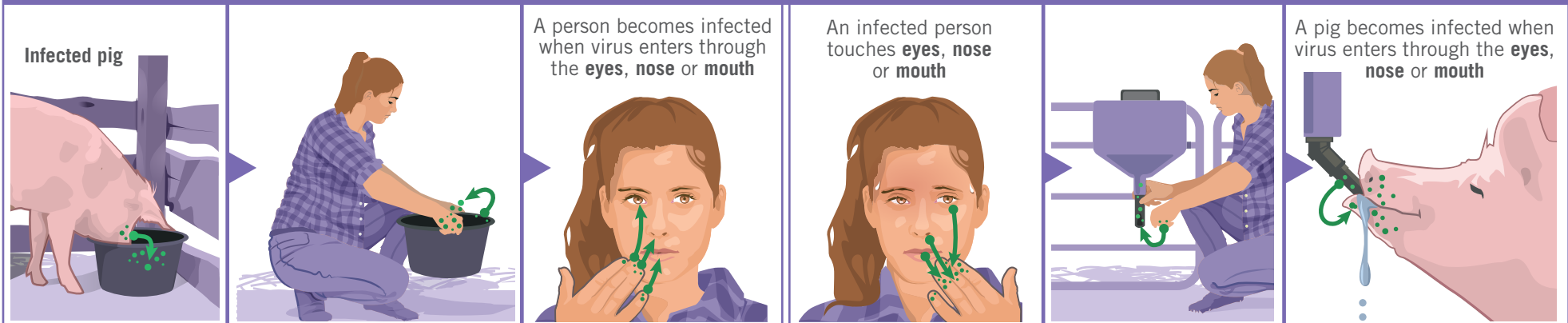
PIG TO PERSON

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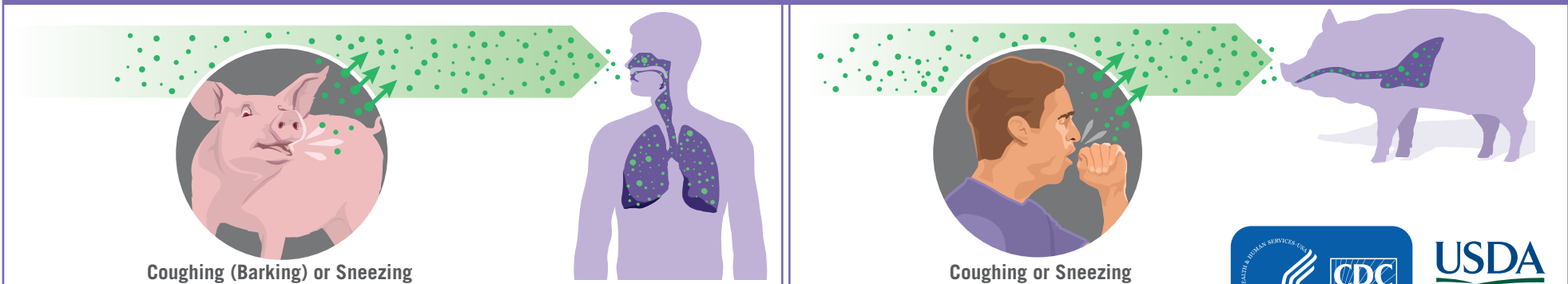
FLU CAN SPREAD THROUGH DIRECT CONTACT



FLU CAN SPREAD THROUGH SURFACE CONTACT



FLU CAN SPREAD THROUGH THE AIR (IN DROPLETS OR DUST)



When influenza (flu) viruses that normally circulate in pigs are detected in people, they are called “variant” flu viruses and are designated with the letter “v,” such as H1N1v and H3N2v. Variant flu virus infections in people occur rarely. This fact sheet has information about flu viruses in pigs and variant flu viruses in people.

FLU VIRUSES IN PIGS

Pigs can be infected with their own flu viruses that are usually different from human flu viruses. Flu viruses can spread from pigs to people, and also from people to pigs. Pigs also are susceptible to infection with flu viruses from other animal species, such as birds.

VARIANT FLU VIRUSES IN PEOPLE

Most reported variant flu virus infections in people have occurred following exposure to infected pigs or their virus contaminated environments, particularly in association with large agricultural fairs. U.S. agricultural fairs take place every year, primarily during the summer months and into early fall. Many fairs have swine exhibitions, where pigs from different farms come in close contact with each other and with people.

Spread of flu viruses between pigs and people is thought to occur in one of three ways:

- The main way is when an infected pig (or person) coughs or sneezes, and droplets containing virus spread through the air. If these droplets land in the nose or mouth, or are inhaled by another person or pig, infection can result.
- There also is evidence that variant flu viruses can spread by touching something that has virus on it and then touching the eyes, nose or mouth.
- A third way to possibly get infected is to inhale small particles in the air that contain variant flu virus.

Most variant flu virus infections have resulted in mild illness in people, but severe illness, including illness resulting in hospitalization and death can and has occurred.

Similar to seasonal flu, some people are at high risk of developing serious illness from variant flu virus infections. This includes children younger than 5 years old, people 65 years of age and older, pregnant women, and people with certain underlying health conditions (like asthma and other lung disease, diabetes, heart disease, weakened immune systems, and neurological or neurodevelopmental conditions).

Variant flu viruses have not been shown to be transmissible through eating pork (pig meat) and other pork products derived from pigs.

PRECAUTIONS TO PREVENT SPREAD OF FLU BETWEEN PIGS AND PEOPLE

- CDC and USDA recommend that people at high risk for serious flu complications avoid pigs and swine barns at fairs.
- Do not take food or drink into pig areas; don't eat, drink or put anything in your mouth in pig areas.
- Don't take toys, pacifiers, cups, baby bottles, strollers, or similar items into pig areas.
- Avoid close contact with pigs that look or act ill.
- Wash your hands often with soap and running water before and after exposure to pigs or their environments. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand rub.
- Watch your pig (if you have one) for illness. Call a veterinarian if you suspect illness in your pig.
- If you must work around sick people or pigs, use appropriate personal protective equipment such as gloves and a face mask or respirator.
- Avoid contact with pigs if you have flu symptoms.

