

BIOSECURITY ACTIVITY: What Goes Around Comes Around

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Group size: 10+, limited only by space available

Based on the size of the group, mark out boundaries of a square big enough to contain everyone and give them room to walk around freely with both arms held out *palms down* and perpendicular to their bodies and not bump into each other too much. The activity leader should be outside the square.

Have a volunteer (“Typhoid Mary”) enter the square with both arms held out *palms up* and wander around randomly. Each time Typhoid Mary touches one of the other people, that person should drop one arm; this indicates they have become “sick”. After two contacts with either Typhoid Mary or a “sick” or “dead” individual, both arms should be dropped and the individual is “dead” and stands still for the duration of the activity. The activity continues until all individuals are sick or dead or the time available has run out (the concepts will become apparent within 5-10 min.).

Discussion

Share

- What did you notice?
- What surprised you?

Process

- How is this activity similar to what happens when an animal carrying a disease is introduced into a herd?
- Why should we be concerned about biosecurity and animal health?

Generalize

- How is this situation similar to what happens after a school vacation?
- What can you do to reduce your risk of contracting illnesses?

Apply

- What can you do to increase the biosecurity of your farm?
- How can you share what you learned with others?

Relevant biosecurity recommendations:

- √ Provide adequate space for animal housing and movement (reduce stocking density)
- √ Provide good nutrition to booster animal health and immunity
- √ Vaccinate to protect against diseases that can threaten animal health
- √ Keep herds closed whenever possible
- √ When necessary, purchase replacements from disease-free sources
- √ Quarantine herd additions for at least one month
- √ Isolate sick animals in a hospital area away from healthy animals
- √ Remove dead animals from premises promptly and dispose of carcass

Biosecurity Recommendations

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- Purchase test-negative animals from test-negative herds
- Isolate herd additions downwind and downstream for at least 30 days (3 mo. better)
- Use and maintain foot bathes for human traffic
- Minimize farm visitors and control their movements
- Require fellow farmers to wear clean boots and clothing on your farm
- Use fences to decrease access to areas of possible disease transmission
- Have hand washing stations readily available at multiple sites
- Use wind breaks to minimize airborne transmission of disease
- Keep sick animals in an isolation area; do their chores last
- Work with your veterinarian to develop an effective vaccination program and use it
- Minimize animal stress
- Provide adequate quality and quantity of nutrition
- Practice excellent farm sanitation
- Do not use manure-handling tools for feed handling
- Remove and compost manure
- Do not spread manure on pasture
- Do not overcrowd animals
- Provide good quality air through adequate ventilation
- Disinfect equipment, facilities, instruments, tools and clothing
- Use protective clothing (rubber boots, coveralls)
- Keep a closed herd if possible
- Control flies, mice, cats, birds, etc.
- Avoid sales, shows and auctions
- Provide shelter
- Separate animals by age groups after weaning
- Do not feed directly on the ground
- Allow as much access to sunshine as possible
- Control parasites
- Fence off wet areas if possible
- Provide clean water at all times
- Be sure neonates receive good quality and quantity of colostrum