

# ADAS Policy on the Notification or Provision of Information on Zoonotic Diseases



The objective of this Policy is to ensure that notifications of zoonotic diseases are compliant with all statutory requirements and that ADAS takes a responsible stance, proportionate to risk, to informing visitors and neighbours of any zoonoses present on ADAS managed sites. The Statutory Regulations that apply are:

*The Animal Health Act 1981 (as amended) or an Order made under that Act.*  
*Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002.*  
*Public Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 1998 (England & Wales).*  
*Public Health Notifiable Diseases Order (Northern Ireland) 1989.*  
*Notification of Infectious Diseases Regulation 1988 (Scotland).*

In addition, animal health legislation also requires that suspicion of certain diseases, some of which are zoonoses, are notified to the Divisional Veterinary Manager. The Statutory Regulation that applies is:

*Animal Health Act 1981 (as amended) or an Order made under that Act.*

ADAS will comply fully with any reporting requirements, restrictions and procedures imposed on it under the appropriate Regulations and Acts.

It is ADAS Policy to notify visitors and neighbours when certain more virulent zoonoses are confirmed as being present on any of the ADAS sites.

ADAS does not routinely sample purchased animal feeds, watercourses or biting insects for the presence of zoonoses. It is therefore ADAS Policy to take action only where there is direct evidence of zoonotic disease in livestock or where ADAS staff have been actually infected with a zoonoses, as a consequence of working at an ADAS site.

## **Disease Reporting:**

Reporting zoonoses and livestock notifiable diseases are both governed by legislation. The Managing Director is ultimately responsible for compliance with these legal requirements but devolves duties to the appropriate Executive Directors, other Senior Managers and Site Managers for implementation.

All ADAS staff have a responsibility to report the presence of suspected zoonotic diseases in livestock managed by ADAS to the appropriate Site Manager.

In addition, all ADAS staff have a responsibility to seek medical opinion if they believe they have contracted a zoonotic disease. In-turn their doctor has a statutory duty to notify the relevant authority of all clinically diagnosed cases of disease specified under the:

*Public Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 1998 (England & Wales).*  
*Public Health Notifiable Diseases Order (Northern Ireland) 1989.*  
*Notification of Infectious Diseases Regulation 1988 (Scotland).*

## ADAS Approach To Reporting and Notification:

ADAS will comply fully with any reporting requirements, restrictions and procedures imposed on it under the appropriate Regulations and Acts. Under other circumstances ADAS will take a responsible stance, proportionate to the risk and disease severity, to notifying visitors and neighbours when certain zoonoses are confirmed as being present on any of the ADAS sites.

ADAS operates a three-tier approach to cover the notification and provision of information about zoonoses, based on the relative risk associated with the diseases and specific legal requirements on formal notification to Defra or by referral to the local health authority by doctors under public health legislation.

### 1. In the presence of notifiable and reportable zoonoses and notifiable livestock disease (Top Tier)

ADAS will notify by the most practical means the relevant authorities, all visitors to ADAS sites and neighbours with contiguous land if any of the diseases summarised below are confirmed present at any ADAS managed site.

Site Managers will inform the ADAS Head of Compliance & Risk Management of the presence of these zoonotic diseases, who in-turn will notify the Health & Safety Executive under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR) reporting procedures.

Site Managers will make visitors and neighbours with contiguous land aware of the presence of disease.

	Notifiable under public health legislation	Reportable under RIDDOR to HSE
▪ Anthrax	✓ (E, W, S, NI)*	✓
▪ Brucellosis		✓
▪ Chlamydiosis (avian)		✓
▪ Chlamydiosis (ovine)		✓
▪ Food poisoning	✓ (E, W, S, NI)	
▪ Leptospirosis	✓ (E, W, S, NI)	✓
▪ Lyme disease	✓ (S)	✓
▪ Q-fever		✓
▪ Rabies	✓ (E, W, S, NI)	✓
▪ <i>Streptococcus suis</i>		
▪ Toxoplasmosis	✓ (S)	
▪ TB	✓ (E, W, S, NI)	✓

\* E, W, S, NI = England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland respectively.

The Site Manager will report any animal affected or suspected of having a notifiable disease to the Defra Divisional Veterinary Manager. Notifiable animal diseases that are potential zoonoses (see listed below) will also be reported to the ADAS Head of Compliance & Risk Management, as they may need reporting to the HSE under RIDDOR Regulations:

- Anthrax
- Avian Influenza\*
- BSE
- Brucellosis (*B. abortus*)
- Brucellosis (*B. melitensis*)
- Contagious Epididymitis
- Equine Viral Encephalomyelitis
- Glanders and Farcy
- Foot and Mouth Disease\*\*
- Newcastle Disease\*\*
- Rabies
- Rift Valley Fever
- TB

\* Certain strains only are zoonotic. \*\* In exceptional cases cause infection in humans.

## 2. In the presence of non-notifiable zoonotic diseases but that have the potential to cause serious ill-health to visitors to ADAS sites (Middle Tier)

If any of the zoonotic diseases listed below are present at ADAS sites the Site Manager will notify visitors of the potential risk. The Site Manager will also notify the ADAS Head of Compliance & Risk Management.

- Campylobacter
- Cryptosporidiosis
- Escherichia coli (VTEC strains including E. coli 0157)
- Salmonella
- Q Fever

## 3. In the presence of endemic zoonotic diseases that do not have the potential to cause serious ill health to visitors to ADAS sites (Bottom Tier)

There are a number of endemic zoonoses (list below) that are likely to be present at all times, where exposure would need to be for considerable periods of time to adversely affect human health or if contracted by humans would have an irritant effect rather than more serious consequences. Under normal circumstances no specific action will be taken to notify visitors of these risks unless anyone is actually diagnosed as being affected at an ADAS site.

- Hantavirus Disease (from rats)
- Hydatid Disease
- Listeriosis
- Orf
- Pasteurellosis
- Psittacosis (Ornithosis)
- Ringworm
- Tapeworm
- Toxocariasis
- Yersiniosis

### References:

*Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002 (CoSHH)*  
*The Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 2013 (RIDDOR)*  
*Public Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 1998 (England & Wales)*  
*Public Health Notifiable Diseases Order (Northern Ireland) 1989*  
*Notification of Infectious Diseases Regulation 1988 (Scotland)*  
*Animal Health Act 1981 (as amended) or an Order made under that Act*  
*Common zoonoses in agriculture – HSE Agriculture Information Sheet AIS No 2 (revised)*

The ADAS Policy on the Notification or Provision of Information on Zoonotic Diseases Policy will be reviewed at least biennially to ensure that it remains fully compliant with any changes to Statutory Guidance.



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