

## Situation Update #4

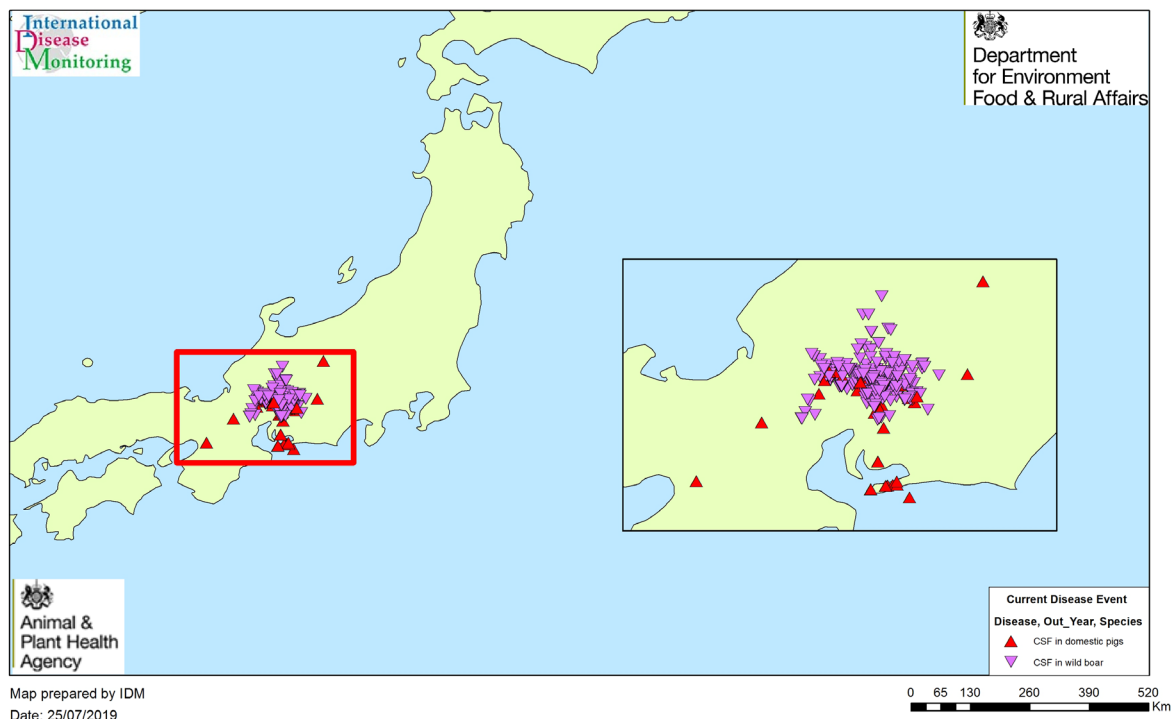
25 July 2019

Ref: VITT/1200 CSF in domestic swine, Japan

# Classical Swine Fever in domestic swine in Japan

## Disease report

Japan reported Classical swine fever (CSF) in domestic swine for the first time since 1992 in Gifu province in September 2018 (OIE, 2018), with the first wild boar case detected a week later. Since then, CSF cases have been regularly reported to OIE, but mostly in wild boar in either Gifu prefecture or the neighbouring Aichi prefecture, with four wild boar cases reported in Mie prefecture close to the Gifu border in July 2019 (a new area for disease spread), and an outbreak reported in a slaughterhouse in the Nagano prefecture in May 2019. As of 25th July there have been 44 CSF outbreaks in domestic swine (15 since our last report in April, including two reports in a slaughter house) with a further 491 cases reported in wild boar (359 since our last report in April), since the start of the CSF outbreak in Japan.



Classical swine fever in Japan since January 2019

## Situation assessment

A total of 44 outbreaks have been reported in domestic pigs, with the most recent on the 23rd July. With the exception of an outbreak at a slaughterhouse in Nagano in May, none of the most recent outbreaks in domestic pigs were reported outside of Gifu and Aichi.

Previously, cases in wild boar have been contained to Gifu and Aichi; in July 2019 four cases of CSF in wild boar have been reported in the Mie prefecture (see map above). This is unsurprising given the close proximity with the Gifu border and the increased wild boar surveillance in the area. Wild boar are found throughout most of Japan, with multiple media reports suggesting that their population numbers are increasing due to shrinking human populations (Japan Times, 2019; SCMP, 2019).

All prefectures are required to conduct CSF testing on dead wild boars. The role of wild boar in the spread of CSF in the prefectures of Gifu, Aichi and now Mie and beyond, is being closely monitored. As of the 4th June 2019, 1,548 wild boar (307 dead and 1,241 captured) in Gifu prefecture have been tested, and 693 (230 dead and 463 captured) were found to be positive for CSFV by RT-PCR since 13th of September. In Aichi prefecture, 561 wild boar (28 dead and 533 captured) have been tested and 35 were found to be positive (12 dead and 23 captured) for CSFV by RT-PCR since 14th of September. In Mie prefecture, 29 wild boar (6 dead and 23 captured) have been tested, and four (all captured) were found CSFV positive by RT-PCR. Among the other prefectures, 343 wild boars (296 dead and 47 captured) were tested and all were found to be negative for CSFV by RT-PCR since the 14th of September (OIE, 2019). Additionally, an oral vaccine (bait vaccine) has been applied to wild boars in selected areas in Gifu and Aichi prefecture where CSF positive cases have been found in wild boars, over 57,000 doses were scattered from the end of March 2019 to the end of May 2019, 60-70% of these seemed to have been taken by wild boar (Animalpharm, 2019). The interim results reported increases in CSF antibodies in wild boar in both Aichi and Gifu and so the government intends to continue with the next vaccination programme (July-September 2019).

Japan is not approved for the dispatch of fresh or frozen pig meat to the EU.

To date, the Japanese Veterinary Services have ruled out the occurrence of African swine fever (ASF) in this outbreak, and in the country, although there is evidence that ASF-contaminated pig meat was brought into the country from China in passenger luggage in November 2018 and April 2019 (ProMed, 2018; ProMed, 2019).

## Conclusions

Currently, we consider there to be a **very low** likelihood of introduction of CSF virus from any affected country to the UK via various pathways, and the cases in Japan do not affect this risk level. We will continue to monitor the situation.

We continue to emphasise the importance of prompt reporting of suspect disease in pigs, and the implementation and maintenance of appropriate biosecurity measures, particularly considering the risk of disease spread by fomite transmission and strict compliance with the swill feeding ban.

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