

Situation update #5

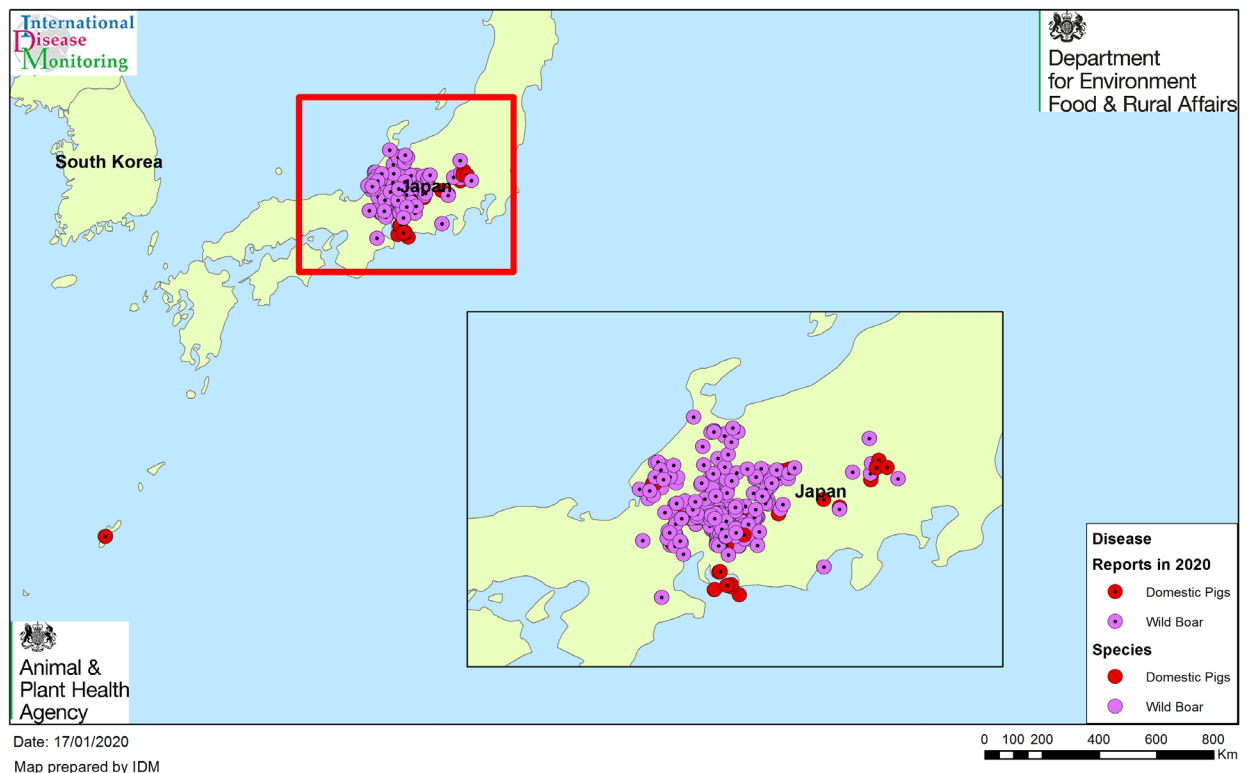
21 January 2020

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, with the majority of cases in wild boar in either Gifu or Aichi prefectures, but with the neighbouring prefectures also reporting disease. CSF has continued to circulate in these areas, and has spread to seven new prefectures since our last report in July 2019. For the first time since 1986, CSF in domestic swine has also been reported on the island of Okinawa. As of 20th January, there have been 53 CSF outbreaks in domestic swine (nine since our last report, including one report in a slaughter house) with a further 1,373 cases reported in wild boar (882 since our last report), since the start of the CSF outbreak in Japan.



Classical swine fever disease in Japan from April 2019

Situation assessment

A total of 53 outbreaks have been reported in domestic pigs, with the 3 most recent on the 7th January. These three most recent farms affected were on the island of Okinawa, approximately 1500km South West of last reported case. This is a significant geographical change, as previously all cases have been on the main island of Honshu, spread across 13 prefectures (see map above). Since July, the seven additional prefectures in which CSF has been reported are; Fukui, Toyama, Saitama, Yamanashi, Ishikawa, Gunma and Shizuoka. It is thought that introduction of infection to the farms on Okinawa occurred through a different route to the Honshu cases, which are thought to have been facilitated by wild boar (ProMed, 2020).

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 numbers reported as of 20th December 2019 are in the table below. Of the 8,552 wild boar tested (857 dead and 7,695 captured) in the affected prefectures, 1,516 (458 dead and 1,058 captured) tested positive by RT-PCR for CSF. In 32 unaffected prefectures, 1,074 wild boar were tested, of which none gave a positive result (OIE, 2019).

Number of wild boar (dead and captured) tested for CSF across 44 prefectures of Japan, and number testing positive by RT-PCR, between September 2018 and December 2019

| Prefecture | Number tested | | Number positive | |
|------------|---------------|----------|-----------------|----------|
| | Dead | Captured | Dead | Captured |
| Gifu | 461 | 2,385 | 342 | 771 |
| Aichi | 44 | 1,368 | 20 | 87 |
| Nagano | 120 | 406 | 45 | 4 |
| Mie | 43 | 1,061 | 3 | 27 |
| Fukui | 10 | 287 | 6 | 27 |
| Toyama | 18 | 184 | 10 | 20 |
| Gunma | 17 | 471 | 3 | 9 |
| Saitama | 14 | 422 | 8 | 28 |
| Ishikawa | 14 | 204 | 6 | 5 |
| Shiga | 17 | 312 | 1 | 70 |
| Shizuoka | 85 | 538 | 14 | 7 |
| Yamanshi | 14 | 57 | 0 | 3 |
| Other (32) | 386 | 688 | 0 | 0 |

Following an oral (bait) vaccine trial in Aichi and Gifu in 2019, interim results reported increases in CSF antibodies in wild boar in both Aichi and Gifu (Animalpharm, 2019). However, the effect of the trial is difficult to assess on these results alone, and the infection has continued to spread in wild boar and domestic pigs. On 15th October 2019, Japan decided to allow vaccination in domestic pigs in designated prefectures: Gunma, Toyama, Ishikawa, Fukui, Nagano, Gifu, Aichi, Mie, Shiga, Saitama, Shizuoka, Yamanashi, Kanagawa and Tokyo (OIE, 2020). The total number of commercial pigs vaccinated with this domestically-manufactured attenuated live CSF vaccine was estimated to be about 1.3 million in December (Animalpharm, 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 risk 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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