

## Updated Outbreak Assessment #20

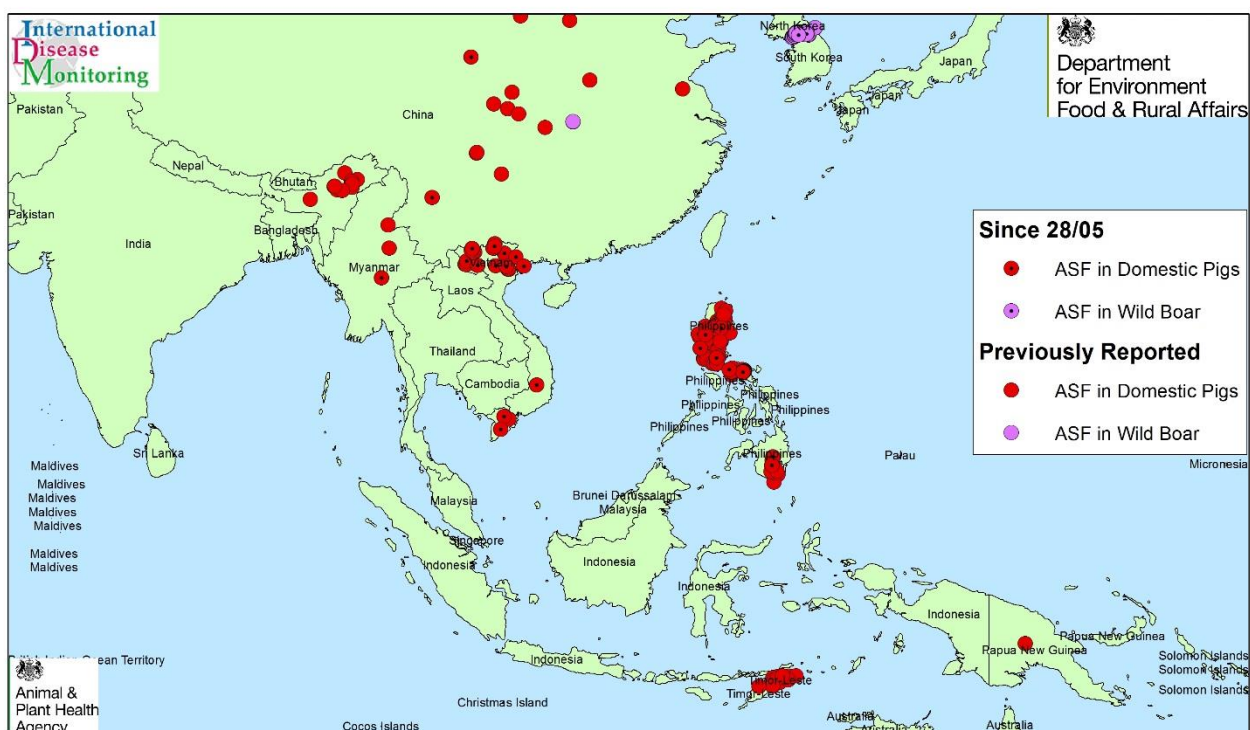
# African swine fever (ASF) in Asia

16 July 2020

Ref: VITT/1200 ASF Asia

## Disease report

Since our last report on 28 May, there have been further reports of ASF in domestic pigs in Myanmar, China, Vietnam and the Philippines, and in wild boar in South Korea.



African swine fever in Asia,  
January - July 2020

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## Situation assessment

On 09 July, **Myanmar** reported an outbreak in domestic pigs in Kayah State, in a backyard farm of 120 pigs. This is the first reported outbreak in Kayah State, which borders Thailand in the southeast of Myanmar. Previous outbreaks in February and April this year have been in the northeast of the country, closer to China, in the Shan and Kachin States.

Since our last report, **China** has reported one outbreak in domestic pigs in Yongsheng County, after 81 out of 102 pigs died on a backyard farm. This is the first report from the Yunnan province, which borders Myanmar, Laos and Vietnam, since January this year.

China has also reported on promising progress in the development of a live-attenuated vaccine for ASF; clinical trials have shown no obvious side effects so far, and there was no transmission or shedding of virus by the pigs vaccinated (Pig Progress, 2020).

In the **Philippines**, four new outbreaks have been reported in backyard pig premises, and one on a commercial premises. The outbreak at a commercial pig premises was in the La Union province, in the north of Luzon, and affected 250 pigs. In the province of Rizal, an outbreak affected ten pigs on a backyard premises. Another outbreak was reported in the neighbouring province of Quezon, affecting 243 pigs at multiple backyard premises within a village. Both provinces are on the south of the island of Luzon, close to Manila. Two backyard premises were affected in the Davao province, on the Philippines' southernmost island of Mindandao, affecting 25 pigs in total. In May, authorities are reported to have seized 2.3 metric tons of processed pork at the border of ASF-free Sarangani, the province neighbouring Davao. Awareness is being raised to consumers in Sarangani about online purchases of pork, as importation of pork from areas of the country where ASF is present is prohibited (Feed Strategy, 2020).

On 02 July, **Vietnam** reported 181 new outbreaks, including three clusters of outbreaks comprising 41, 99, and 15 outbreaks each, and 26 separate outbreaks. All outbreaks were in domestic pigs at backyard premises, involving 6,054 pigs in total. Of these outbreaks, 178 were in the north, above Hanoi city, and three were in the south. Since Vietnam's first cases of ASF in February 2019, 8,466 outbreaks have been reported, affecting all 63 provinces of the country and resulting in the loss of nearly six million pigs. Due to the impact on the pig industry, it is reported that Vietnam has tripled its imports of pork Jan – May 2020, compared with the same period last year (Feed Strategy, 2020).

**South Korea** has continued to report cases of ASF in wild boar frequently, with a further twelve wild boar reported to be ASF positive since our last report.

Since our last report on 28 May, there have been no further outbreaks of ASF reported in **Cambodia, Hong Kong, India, Laos, Mongolia, Papua New Guinea, North Korea, Timor-Leste**, though it is likely that the virus is still circulating in these areas. **Taiwan** still remains officially free from ASF.

The confirmation of ASF in multiple countries across Asia and Oceania, and the wide geographic range of infection found within these countries, demonstrates the potential for further spread of ASF into and within the domestic pig and wild suid populations in this part of the world.

Publicity campaigns are in place in the UK to inform the general public and discourage individuals from bringing pork products into UK. This includes targeted messages to key stakeholders such as road hauliers, hunters, pig keepers and veterinarians. See: <https://pork.ahdb.org.uk/health-welfare/health/emerging-diseases/african-swine-fever/>

## Conclusion

The risk of ASF introduction to the UK was raised to **medium** in August 2018 as a result of the number of outbreaks of ASF being reported in Eastern Europe, and subsequent detection of ASF in wild boar in Belgium in September 2018.

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs  
Animal and Plant Health Agency  
Advice Services - International Disease Monitoring

The current risk of ASF introduction to the UK is still considered to be maintained as **medium**, despite the spread of ASF within Asia and Oceania.

Illegal importation of infected pork meat from affected parts of Asia and Oceania, presents a significant route of entry of ASF virus into the UK. There are also ongoing concerns around infected pork products originating from affected non-EU countries entering the EU in passenger luggage and the subsequent waste being discarded in areas where wild boar or domestic pigs could access them.

Given the current COVID-19 pandemic, direct flights to/from the EU and UK, and internationally, may be cancelled or running a very limited schedule. Relaxing COVID-19 movement restrictions of people within affected countries could now begin to impact on disease reporting. Therefore, there still remains a risk of entry of ASFV in products of animal origin from affected countries via other pathways, including from illegal imports.

All travellers are strongly advised to avoid bringing any pork products – for example, dried or cured meats, sausages, salamis or pâté – back to the UK from affected parts of Europe. Travellers from Asia and other third country areas who bring meat or dairy products can also face prosecution and a large fine.

We would like to highlight to all pig keepers, pig producers, smallholders and general public to ensure pigs are not fed catering waste, kitchen scraps or pork products, thereby observing the swill feeding ban. All pig keepers should remain vigilant and ensure that any visitors to their premises have not had any recent contact with pigs or pig premises in the affected regions.

People returning from any ASF-affected areas of the world should avoid any contact with domestic pigs in commercial holdings, smallholdings or even household pet pigs. Habitats where feral pigs or wild boar exist should also be avoided. All clothing, footwear or equipment should be disinfected before entering pig areas.

Pig keepers and veterinarians should remind themselves of the clinical signs for ASF. Any suspect cases must be reported promptly. Please see <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/african-swine-fever> for more information.

We will continue to monitor the situation.

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## References

All disease reports are available from the OIE WAHIS database.

Pig Progress (2020)

<https://www.pigprogress.net/Health/Articles/2020/6/ASF-China-Clinical-vaccine-trials-show-safety-so-far-596599E/>

Feed strategy (2020)

<https://www.feedstrategy.com/african-swine-fever/african-swine-fever-returns-to-myanmar-2/>



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