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## People

People go into every pig unit and need to handle pigs for various tasks, such as vaccination and weighing. Thus, people can have prolonged close contact with pigs so they are a real biosecurity risk. Remember, the closer they get to the pigs or the longer the contact, the greater the risk this person presents.

People can bring disease-causing micro-organisms into the pig house in two ways. Firstly, their clothes and footwear can carry the micro-organisms and in effect be a fomite or, secondly, they themselves can be 'infected'. A good example of this is salmonella. Respiratory viruses and mycoplasma can also be carried in man's nasal passages and discharged by sneezing. Hair also easily traps micro-organisms and can carry large numbers of them.

## Farm staff

People coming on to your farm fall into two categories – staff and visitors. The real risk with staff is that they spend long periods of time in the herd and often handle pigs. There are two facets to managing the risk represented by staff. Firstly, make sure they do not get contaminated at home. This means no owning of pigs and no visiting of other pig farms.

Secondly, when staff come to work you are going to do all you can to decontaminate them. The extent to which this stage goes depends on the value of your pigs and the perceived risks. For example, a large breeder farm would do far more than a small outdoor pig farmer.

At one extreme it is a comprehensive shower and putting on company owned clothes and using sanitising hand gels before going into each house, while at the other it might just be a case of using a pair of the farmer's wellington boots.

It is also important to ensure that staff always use the toilet(s) provided and always thoroughly wash their hands afterwards.

Staff food must never go into the pig houses. It should be confined to the designated canteen area.

## Visitors

Everything that applies to staff should also apply to visitors. In one sense, visitors represent a greater risk because many of them could have visited other pigs. Therefore, the importance of only letting essential visitors on to your farm can not be emphasised enough!

Back issues of Pighealth BYTES are available to download from our [website](http://www.positiveaction.co.uk).

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