

Vaccination and medication are an integral part of pig production allowing pig owners to deliver high welfare and high health pigs whether in large scale production systems or as smaller scale producers.

It is important to understand why we vaccinate and medicate and how storage and administration of these medicines can affect their ability to work effectively.

VACCINATION

Why?

To stimulate the pig's immune system to protect it or its offspring against disease

When?

This will depend on the vaccine being administered and on the animals receiving it. Injectables often require a starter course followed by a booster

Who?

A veterinary surgeon or anyone competent in medicines administration, for which training can be accessed

Types of Vaccine

- **Modified Live** – a weakened live vaccine e.g. PRRS injectable vaccines, Salmonella oral vaccines
- **Inactivated** – the vaccine is effectively dead e.g. Mycoplasma vaccine, Erysipelas Vaccines
- **Toxoid Vaccines** – contains toxin e.g. vaccines against *Actinobacillus pleuropneumoniae* contain toxin & bacterial isolates
- **Autogenous Vaccines** – These contain specific strains found on individual farms on which they can only be used

Routes of administration

for further advice and training, please contact your vet

Injectable	Oral
Intramuscular	Drenching
Subcutaneous	Water line
Intradermal	



Injectable Vaccine Protocol

1. Check Datasheet instructions regarding storage, mixing and broached vials
2. Remove from fridge and allow to reach room temperature
3. Check within expiry date
4. Mix if mixing is required (some require mixing with a solvent)
5. Open bottle and use a fresh needle where possible
6. Inject using correct method of administration
7. Use up entire bottle if possible - *Once opened, most vaccine vials must be used up within 8 hours and unused doses discarded.*

i.e. If a pig receives a starter course of vaccine at day 1 then a new bottle should be broached for the booster 3-4 weeks later

When to change the needle?

If it becomes damaged in any way (e.g. bent or blunted) and:

- Processing Litters – Change needle between litters
- Sow Vaccination – Every 10 animals maximum, needles blunt very quickly

Can I mix two different vaccines?

This is licensed for some vaccination protocols but do not mix unless told to do so by your veterinarian or instructed by the datasheet

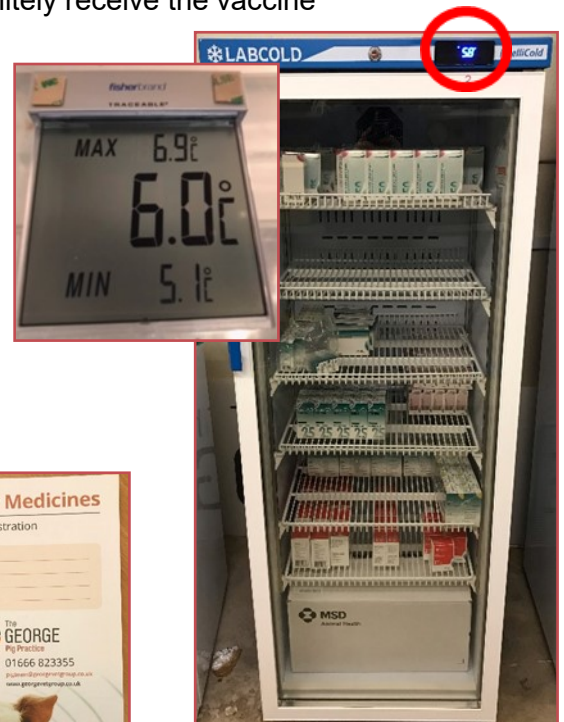
Only administer 2 vaccines at the same time if directed to do so by your vet.

Oral vaccination key points

1. Make sure the correct antimicrobial free period has been observed before starting
2. Meter the water the day before to allow you to know how much pigs are drinking
3. A water stabiliser may be needed so the vaccine isn't inactivated e.g. Thiosulphate Blue
4. Mix the vaccine and add to the correct volume of stabilised water
5. Run the water through until the vaccine is at the end of the line
6. Oral drenching may be preferable to ensure all pigs definitely receive the vaccine

Storage

Most vaccines are temperature sensitive and this means they must be kept within a certain temperature range (usually 2-8 °C). For those keeping vaccine on farm it is recommended a vaccine fridge is used with a thermometer to record and check temperature daily. This fridge should be exclusively for medication and should be lockable – No food or drink.



Recording usage

Pigs are classed as food producing animals and all treatments should be recorded regardless of whether they end up in the food chain. These animals should be identifiable during the treatment period. Many vaccines have zero withdrawal period but some don't - always check.



Disposal of used medicines and Sharps

Sharps Bin – Needles and Scalpel blades only (right)

'Doop' Bin - all used medicines containers and syringes must be disposed

"Doop" bin

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Sharps bin

