



# Brucella Suis

## Background

Brucella suis causes brucellosis in pigs. B. suis is a bacterial infection consisting of 5 serovars, 3 of which cause infection on pigs; biovars 1,2 and 3. Brucellosis in pigs causes an initial bacteraemia which leads to chronic lesions developing in the reproductive organs in both males and females with occasional localisation of disease and lesion in other tissues. Clinical signs of B. suis include abortions, infertility, birth of weak piglets and reduced litter sizes. B. suis is a zoonotic disease.

## Legislative basis

As per Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/1882 Brucellosis of swine is classified as being a Category D and E disease, as opposed to brucellosis in bovine, ovine and caprine species where it is a Category B disease also.

As a Category D disease it is a listed disease:

*‘for which measures are needed to prevent it from spreading on account of its entry into the Union or movements between Member States, as referred to in Article 9(1)(d) of Regulation (EU) 2016/429’*

And also a Category E disease meaning it is a listed disease:

*‘for which there is a need for surveillance within the Union, as referred to in Article 9(1)(e) of Regulation (EU) 2016/429.’*

## Active surveillance

To abide by this legislation Ireland carries out surveillance to prove freedom from Brucella suis. All boars being kept in AI facilities are screened. Also, all boars being exported must pass a pre-export blood test that proves they are free of Brucella suis.

Year	Porcine samples tested for B. suis	Positives	Negatives
2020	526	0	526
2021	430	0	430

Last updated: 28 April 2025



2022	276	0	276
2023	295	0	295
2024	341	0	341

### Passive surveillance

It should be noted that the active surveillance outlined above is supplementary to the passive surveillance which Ireland regards as its mainstay in detecting incursions of exotic disease.

Brucellosis is a notifiable disease in Ireland, meaning that anyone who suspects that a ruminant or swine may have the disease is legally obliged to notify DAFM.