



# Philippine College of Swine Practitioners

Unit 233 Union Square Condominium, 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
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15 October 2019

**TO:** DR. WILLIAM DAR  
Secretary, Department of Agriculture

**CC:** DR. RONNIE DOMINGO  
OIC Director, Bureau of Animal Industry, Department of Agriculture

**FROM:** Philippine College of Swine Practitioners (PCSP)  
Affiliate of the Philippine Veterinary Medical Association, PVMA

**SUBJECT:** Request for further analysis of ASF viral isolate

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The current situation with African Swine Fever (ASF) affecting several provinces in North Luzon now make it more important than ever to understand the situation. This includes knowing the virus characteristics.

We are informed that the results from the Pirbright Laboratory, UK are as follows: PCR positive for ASF virus, Virus Isolation positive for ASF virus and Virus characterized as Genotype 2.

May we request the following additional data:

1. Full sequence analysis of the whole genome or target genome.
2. Phylogenetic analysis of the isolated virus

There is value in the further characterization of our ASF virus isolate. By phylogeny, Genotype 2 viruses in a reference lab will find its relatedness to other isolates. If for example phylogeny guides us that it is Genotype 2 related to the Poland strain or the Lithuanian strain, then our epidemiological tracking will have to focus on smuggled or even imported European imports. If it is more related to the China isolate, then we can monitor China pork and pork product goods.

The value of Full or Specific Genome Sequencing will help us evaluate future commercial vaccine evaluations or even development.



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ASF genotyping does not determine virulence. But, ASF virulence, infectious dose, and contagiousity are all related to the character of the strain. The virulence of our Philippine isolate should guide us in our 1-7-10 protocols and in future amendments. For now, we have no basis of our isolate's virulence and contagiousity (through epidemiological analysis) so we adapted the 1 km stamp-out infected zone. Based on the data - we could decide to limit the 1km Area and make control measures less expensive

Moreover, we also recommend sending samples from multiple cases (from different localities) for sequence analysis to determine whether there are different strains affecting the swine population in the Philippines. There are several laboratories/research facilities who are willing to help and the PCSP is collaborating with the researchers to help us. We hope that these added scientific data will be helpful for the industry and guide us in ground actions, diagnostics and maybe in the future, vaccine choice.

We hope for your kind affirmation.

Truly,

  
**DR. ZOILLO LAPUS**  
President

  
**DR. TOMAS ACORDA**  
Chairman, Specialty Board