

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Latest Surge video highlights growing concern about the pandemic potential of a new strain of swine flu with links to pig farming

VIDEO | [How 2020 could be about to get a LOT worse](#)

London, UK - A new strain of swine flu, descended from the H1N1 strain that caused the 2009-10 pandemic and [identified by Chinese researchers](#), is causing growing concern among scientists and experts for its potential to cause the next global pandemic.

The latest video from animal rights organisation Surge, and presented by co-director Ed Winters as part of the 'Not If, But When' campaign, explores the connection between G4 EA H1N1 and pig farming - not only in regards to farms in China, but also its links to ancestral H1N1 strains found in farms around the world including Europe and North America.

The video also draws attention to a [2015 study carried out by the US National Institutes of Health](#), which mapped the genetic sequences of swine flu viruses and found that Europe and the US – the largest global exporters of pigs – are also the largest exporters of swine flu.

While the G4 strain of swine flu is not currently endemic in humans, intensive pig farming - with its dense populations and unavoidably poor hygiene - creates the perfect conditions for gene mutation and reassortment that could give rise to a change that would allow it to pass easily from human-to-human. Even without this much feared change, the current predominant form of G4 has already been shown in a study by Chinese researchers to have [acquired increased human infectivity](#).

The video concludes with a clear call-to-action urging viewers to look in their shopping baskets and ask themselves whether anything they're buying is contributing to the problem of animal farming and the emergence of the next zoonotic pandemic.

Ed Winters, co-director of Surge, said:

"The purpose of our 'Not If, But When' campaign is to highlight how, as long as we continue to farm animals, we will have issues with infectious zoonotic disease and pandemics, as was also highlighted by a recent UN report.

It is absolutely absurd that we continue to allow industries that cause infectious diseases to continue, and not only that but we subsidise them to make them more cost effective, in effect worsening the problem. If we continue down the road that we are currently on, then we will consistently be at the peril of the next pandemic."

www.surgeactivism.org/notifbutwhenswineflu

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ABOUT SURGE:

Surge is an animal rights organisation determined to create a world where compassion towards all non-human animals is the norm.

We recognise that the oppression of animals needs to end immediately and that animal oppression is not a matter of welfare, it is a matter of liberation.

NOTES FOR EDITORS:

- Link to campaign video: <https://youtu.be/C6vMNNYnGkY>
- Surge logo and other media assets are available upon request - please email andrew@surgeactivism.com.