

Circumvent[®] PCV M: The P's of Safe and Effective Vaccination with Circumvent PCV-M



TECHNICAL BULLETIN

Proper handling, management and planning help ensure safe and effective vaccination with Circumvent PCV M. To ensure safe and effective vaccination with Circumvent PCV M, follow these management tips.

The Product:

1. **Proper preservation-** Store at refrigerator temperatures 38 to 40 degrees F and have a thermometer in your refrigerator that stores medicines and vaccines. Poor refrigerator seals can result in air leakage. Packing the refrigerator with too much product can reduce air circulation.
2. **Proper preparation-** Warm the vaccine to room temperature prior to injecting into pigs. For a 500 mL bottle, it will take about 1.5 hours to warm up. Bottles can be warmed within 10 minutes by placing in water warmed to body temperature; this process is similar to warming milk for a baby. Also, remember to shake the bottle well before use.

The Pig:

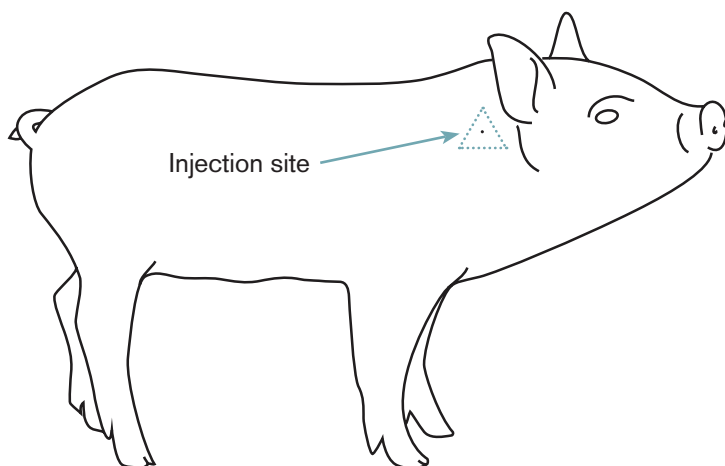
1. **Proper health status-** Diseases like Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome (PRRS) can reduce the effectiveness of vaccines if active at the time of vaccination. PRRS can also reduce the ability of the pigs to breathe properly, which may make them more prone to reacting, especially if the pigs are crowded into a tight space.
2. **Proper timing-** The age at the first and second vaccinations needs to be determined by each operation. The interval between vaccinations should be a minimum of 2 weeks and 3 to 4 weeks is preferred. Regardless, stick to the plan once it is established.

3. **Proper immunological status-** Antibodies from the sow can potentially interfere with vaccination, especially in situations where sows are vaccinated prior to farrowing.
4. **Proper environment-** Pigs undergoing the stress of vaccination need more air to breathe and to keep cool. Besides PRRS, low or inadequate incoming air flow by the ventilation system can be problematic. This is a special concern when the system is set at low air-flow rates for small pigs and cool outdoor temperatures. Consider turning up the ventilation system 10 to 15 minutes before starting to vaccinate and continue at the increased rate until the vaccination process is completed. In some situations, opening doors to let in more air may be helpful.

The Process:

1. **Proper needle size-** For pigs up to weaning age, use a 20 gauge X ½ inch needle. From weaning age to 25 to 30 lbs., use an 18 gauge X ⅝ inch needle. From 30 to 70 lbs., use a 16 or 18 gauge X ¾ inch needle. Thereafter, a 16 gauge X 1 inch needle can be used up to market weight. Sows should be vaccinated with 1½ inch needles. Using a needle that is too long could injure the pig and increase the chance of reactors. These recommendations are consistent with Pork Quality Assurance (PQA) guidelines.
2. **Proper needle management-** Discard needles that are bent, develop a burr on the tip or become dirty. Change needles every litter in farrowing and after every pen of pigs in the nursery phase or after vaccinating a maximum of 30 pigs.

3. **Proper syringe management-** Syringes should be cleaned and rinsed between uses. Store cleaned syringes in a sealed and clean container. Test the volume administered by the syringe before using. This will help prevent under or overdosing.
4. **Proper injection placement-** Vaccinations should be done intramuscularly in the neck in an area that is shaped like a triangle behind and below the ear but in front of the shoulder (see PQA guidelines). The needle should be perpendicular to the skin to insure the proper depth of injection. Vaccinating outside this area can result in injury to the pig and damage to the needle if the needle hits bone.



5. **Proper pig handling-** The movement and crowding of pigs during vaccination will stress the pig and potentially cause injury. Pigs less than 20 lbs. should be picked up for injection. Heavier pigs can be cornered with a panel or gate but this should be done carefully to avoid piling and injury, and to provide the pig with adequate space to stand and breathe properly.

6. **Proper attention to reactors-** If a pig reacts following vaccination, the best action is to remove it from the pen to avoid injury from other pigs while it recovers. Make sure the pig is comfortable and safe from other pigs in the pen until it recovers.
7. **Proper management of swellings-** Swellings at the injection site may occur, usually after the second vaccination. These swellings are not abscesses. Accordingly, there is no reason to lance them. Leave them alone since the swellings will generally resolve within 14 days. Refer to bottle label for complete caution details.
8. **Proper attitude-** Vaccination is important economically and from a welfare standpoint. The cost of not properly vaccinating a pig can be up to \$30 per pig. Disease control is a welfare practice. On the other hand, vaccination causes stress so all efforts should be made to minimize that stress. Take pride in your work.

The Plan:

1. **Precision-** Be precise in your planning to insure that all of the above factors are addressed prior to vaccinating your pigs.
2. **Persistence-** Be persistent in executing your plan. Avoid shortcuts that can make vaccination unsafe or ineffective.
3. **Proactivity-** Be proactive by recognizing situations that may interfere with your ability to vaccinate pigs safely and effectively.

