



Virology Specialty Advisory Committee

ACMSF Consultation on Draft Report on Foodborne Viral Infections

12 June 2014

Thank you for inviting us to comment on the report. I am writing to you on behalf of the Royal College of Pathologists' Specialty Advisory Committee on Virology.

Firstly, we wish to congratulate the authors of the report on the overall document. Our comments in relation to the text are set out below:

Page 31: If you are retaining the whole section on emerging infections covering SARs, influenza and simian agents, please add "simian" before herpes viruses. I would suggest that this whole section on emerging infections does not add much to the document. We consider that it would suffice to have this information presented within a table.

Page 79: Mention is made of HEV in pigs, however no mention is made of its presence in blood and therefore in meat. Recent evidence on HEV infection from PHE/DEFRA/FSA studies suggests that many pigs are actively infected and viraemic at the time of slaughter, so there is a need to expand information on where the virus is found in pigs, also to note at what ages pigs are infected and therefore the risk in various pig meats.

General: We note that the reports contains very little on sapovirus. This doubtless reflects the low numbers of documented food-associated outbreaks. However, given its high incidence in the community, its similarity in behaviour to norovirus, and its potential for foodborne infection with evidence of its presence in some shellfish and water, it might be desirable to give it some discussion in its own right.

Table 2: Suggest that 'Adenoviruses Group F' replaces the current term 'Adenoviruses'.

Nipah virus is included in Table 2 as 'considered because of potential risks'. However, it does not appear to be included in the text of the report.

Dr Kenneth J Mutton FRCPath
Consultant Virologist

