

Preventative Measures for Infectious Horse Diseases at Equine Facilities and Events

– adapted from Dr. George Allen, EHV-1 researcher at University of KY, Gluck Research Center and American Association of Equine Practitioner (AAEP) guidelines

Managers of horse shows or events and managers of those premises or facilities where those events are held may reduce the risk of infectious disease transmission among animals by implementation of some or all of the following strategies:

1. Define requirements for entry of horses onto the premises or facility where event is held
 - owner statement regarding exposure to horses attending Ogden event or horses stabled near or coming in contact with horses attending Ogden event - horses that have attended, or been exposed to horses returning from the event in the last 28 days will not be allowed to enter the show/ event grounds. *The EHV-1 infection outbreak is centered around horses that were present at the National Cutting Horse Association's Western National Championships (NCHA) held at the Golden Spike Event Center in Ogden, Utah from April 30th to May 8th. This includes horses that did not attend the event but have subsequently come into contact with horses returning from the event.*
 - health certificate with normal temperature noted within 24 hours of entry or temperature taken on entry
 - all horses vaccinated for EHV-1 (and other equine infectious diseases) – best 30 days prior to exposure
 - biosecurity agreement signed by all persons entering event or hauling horses onto premises – (see example next page)
2. Monitoring of all horses at event by owner/trainer & establish of a reporting protocol
 - temperatures taken every 12 hours for horses staying overnight
 - immediate reporting of horses with respiratory symptoms, temperature of 102 F or higher (and diarrhea to include other infectious diseases)
 - Use of horse health monitoring logs – post on stall or turn in to show manager daily
 - provide AAEP biosecurity guideline & AAEP bi-lingual sanitation guideline to participants
3. Rapid infectious disease control response - ability to isolate or remove horses in case of a EHV-1 suspect (or other communicable disease)
 - management could designate a shed-row, pen or barn on the facility away from other horse penning areas and out of main traffic for temporary isolation of sick (suspect) horses

- require isolation /removal of horses with fever of 102°F or greater, cough, runny nose (not associated with exercise) or snotty nose (and diarrhea to include other infectious equine diseases)
- require sick horses be removed from the event and premises within 2 hours of detection of fever (If the owner cannot move the horse off the premises, a professional horse hauler contracted by the event will remove the horse to a designated isolation area at the owner's expense)
- follow-up veterinarian exam & sampling for horses with fever/ respiratory/ neurologic signs

Participant Biosecurity Agreement (containing any of the above statements/guidelines) example:

(Put this agreement in stall applicant packet, on-line, give to veterinarians/owners/trainers and require a signature on a sheet that is returned with entry form.)

“To protect the health of all horses entering _____ event, all persons owning, training, riding and entering the premises with horses must read, agree to, and sign a premises and horse biosecurity agreement and follow the sanitation protocols listed here... ”

Individual Horse & Barn Sanitation to reduce transmission of viral and bacterial diseases:

- use individual feeding & watering buckets, grooming equipment and tack; equipment or tack should be washed, rinsed, disinfected, rinsed and then dried before using on another horse – especially if it contacted the horse's mouth (saliva) or nose (nasal discharge)
- do not use communal waterers or water tanks
- tie horses to own trailers if possible or 10 ft. apart if in commingling area such as arena
- daily monitoring of all horses housed on-site (use horse health logs to note appetite/ temps/ behavior)
- reporting of fever, runny nose not associated with recent exercise, cough and neurological signs in horses; isolation or removal of horse AND follow-up exam by owner's veterinarian with testing
- pressure-wash walker hook-ups, test barn stalls, paddock stalls every evening
- pressure-wash vacated stalls

- horses returning from events should be kept separate from resident horses for 7 days and monitored for signs of illness
- refer to the AAEP Biosecurity Guidelines for more recommendations and measures to minimize the spread of infectious equine diseases; the web-link is:
<http://www.aaep.org/custdocs/BiosecurityGuidelinesFinal030113.pdf>

The herpes virus is easily killed once it's out of the horse with detergents or mild disinfectants; a pressure washer with hot water and soap sprayed on surfaces where horses have coughed or licked will remove or kill the virus. Disinfectants mixed to label directions can be applied with a sprayer or cloth to contaminated surfaces. A hot water rinse should follow use of a detergent or disinfectant solution to prevent horses from ingesting these substances.