

WSDA Equine Herpesvirus Incident Guidelines Factsheet

- **At this time, there is no laboratory verified case of EHV1 wildtype in the state of WA.**
- **WSDA recommendations:**
 - Suspect cases should be checked for both West Nile Virus (WNV) and EHV1 by the equine owner's veterinarian.
 - Report a fever (any temperature of 102.5°F or greater) to a veterinarian for follow up collection of nasopharyngeal/nasal swabs and blood to test for EHV-1.
 - Monitor all horses for clinical signs compatible with EHV-1 infection, which include ocular or nasal discharge, limb edema, abortion and neurologic signs such as unsteady gait, weakness, urine dribbling, lack of tail tone and recumbency. Report the observation of any of these signs to the veterinarian designated for follow up collection of nasopharyngeal/nasal swabs and blood sampling to test for EHV-1.
 - Self-quarantine for any animals with questionable signs, vaccination of all horses for WNV and EHV1, and the practicing of biosecurity measures on farm and during the travel to events.
 - Obtain and record the body temperatures of all horses on the premises twice daily. Ideally obtain horse's body temperature first thing in the morning and last thing in the evening and before administering medications which may decrease the body temperature.
 - Restrict human, pet and vehicle traffic from exposed-horse areas
 - Limit direct horse-to-horse contact
 - Limit stress to horses
 - Eliminate sharing of equipment and personnel
 - Clean and disinfect:
 - Clean all barn, other stabling, trailer, or other equine contact surfaces thoroughly, removing all organic matter (dirt, nasal secretions, uneaten feed, manure, etc.) before applying a disinfectant. It is important to remember that organic material decreases the effectiveness of the disinfectant, especially if 10% bleach is used as the disinfectant.
 - Use footwear disinfectant and hand sanitizer where indicated.
 - Several EHV-1 vaccines currently marketed in North America carry a label claim for the control of respiratory disease induced by EHV-1 and -4. These are multi-component inactivated vaccines specifically, Prestige® (Merck), Calvenza® (Boehringer Ingelheim Vetmedica) and Fluvac Innovator® (Zoetis) and the modified live vaccine Rhinomune® (Boehringer Ingelheim Vetmedica). Additionally, there are two EHV-1 vaccines licensed for the control of abortion and respiratory disease these vaccines are single-component inactivated vaccines, namely Pneumabort-K® (Zoetis) and Prodigy® (Merck).

NOTE:

- Isolation of all mules away from horses may be an important strategy in EHV-1 disease control during an EHV incident. Recent scientific studies have investigated the role of mules as silent shedders of EHV-1 during an Equine Herpesvirus incident.