

## Equine Herpesvirus Fact Sheet and FAQ

### 1. What is EHV?

Equine Herpes Virus (EHV) is a group of viruses that can cause respiratory disease, neonatal disease, abortion and neurologic disease

### 2. What are clinical signs of EHV?

- Fever (>101.5F)
- Nasal discharge
- Cough
- Lethargy and anorexia

### 3. What is the incubation period for EHV?

Can be as short as 24 hours; typically 4-7 days; can be up to 14 days.

### 4. What is EHM?

Equine Herpes Myeloencephalopathy (EHM) is the neurologic form of EHV

### 5. What are clinical signs of EHM?

- Hind end weakness
- Toe dragging
- Incoordination
- Urinary/fecal incontinence
- Dog-sitting

### 6. How soon after fever do neurologic signs appear with EHM?

Fever is typically seen 24-48 hours prior to neurologic signs; can be as long as 8-12 days from initial fever onset

### 7. Can horses recover from EHV?

Yes, typically cases of EHV, especially in vaccinated horses, is self-limiting and mild and most horses recover without significant intervention over a few weeks

### 8. Can horses recover from EHM?

EHM carries a much higher mortality rate than EHV (30-50%) and often neurologic status declines very quickly. Horses that remain standing have a better chance of recovery, which may take weeks to months and up to over a year.

### 9. How is EHV transmitted?

- Nose-to-nose contact between horses, especially via mucus
- Can be aerosolized up to 30 feet from coughing/snorting
- Shared equipment and tack
- Can be transmitted from people/clothes/shoes
- Can survive on surfaces several weeks w/o disinfection
- Horses can be carriers w/o showing clinical signs

### 10. What is the test for EHV?

PCR nasal swab and blood test sent to the state lab (CAFHS)

### 11. What is the treatment for EHV?

Supportive care; antibiotics are NOT recommended; antipyretics and anti-inflammatories (like banamine)

Treatment for EHM includes anti-viral and heparin treatments

Preventative measures include low-dose aspirin

**12. Is there a vaccine for EHV/EHM?**

There is a vaccine for EHV, and high-antigen vaccines help to decrease viral shedding. A vaccinated horse can still contract EHV, but the clinical disease is typically less severe. There is not a vaccine for EHM.

**13. Should I booster my horse's EHV vaccine at this time?**

No; vaccination can cause transient fever, EHM appears to develop with more frequency in recently vaccinated horses, and a vaccine takes ~2 weeks before granting immunity

**14. How can I disinfect for EHV?**

EHV is easily killed by most disinfectants, including bleach at a 1:10 bleach:water ratio.

**15. What can I do to limit transmission of EHV?**

- Limit horse-to-horse contact
- Limit horse-to-human-to-horse contact
- Disinfect/wash hands between horses and disinfect/change clothes and shoes when dealing with exposed or positive horses; handle exposed/positive horses last
- Avoid sharing water; do not put end of hose into water buckets when filling
- Avoid sharing tack and other equipment
- Monitor horses for clinical signs - take horse's temperature twice daily
  - Ideal to have clipboard and log outside stall w/ list of medications horse is currently on and owner contact information
- We will have the CDFA biosecurity guidelines available

**16. How long will a quarantine last?**

AAEP recommendation: 14-28 days after the last detection of clinical signs OR based on recommendations from the State Vet

**17. What should I do if my horse has a fever?**

- Contact your veterinarian to inform so they may be appropriately tested as soon as possible
- Contact Dave to move horse to an isolation stall

**18. What are recommendations on events and travel at this time?**

As of 3/3/22 evening, CDFA/State vet is recommending a postponement of all H/J events for the next 28 days, postponing ALL equine events for 14 days, and all non-essential horse movement to be postponed for at least 14 days.

Further questions may be directed to the following:

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