



# Maryland Department of Agriculture

Office of Marketing, Animal Industries and Consumer Services

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Animal Health

Agriculture | Maryland's Leading Industry  
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## Subject: UPDATE - Maryland CVI Requirements due to a Multi-State EHV-1 Outbreak

The Maryland State Veterinarian's Office has confirmed a case of Equine Herpesvirus (EHV) / Equine Herpesvirus Myeloencephalopathy (EHM) in Cecil County, identified on December 29, 2025. The affected horse exhibited neurological signs and is currently recovering. The premises, along with all horses housed at the facility, are under quarantine at this time.

Additional horses from the premises traveled out of state during the month of December. MDA's Animal Health Program has coordinated with the affected states to provide appropriate traceback information.

This ongoing EHV/EHM outbreak serves as a reminder of the disease risks associated with commingling equine events and highlights the importance of timely disease reporting and adherence to animal movement requirements, including veterinary inspection and health certificates prior to travel.

**Horse Owners:** If your horses traveled to an equine event where EHV exposure may have occurred, please contact our office directly at 410-841-5810. We will provide guidance regarding isolation and monitoring:

- Exposed horses should be isolated for 21 days after last known exposure.
- Appropriate isolation includes restricted access to other horses, avoiding the sharing of equipment or personnel, and utilization of protective barrier precautions.
- Exposed horses should be monitored twice daily for elevated temperature (above 101.5°F), respiratory signs (nasal discharge, coughing), and for clinical signs consistent with Equine Herpes Myeloencephalopathy (neurologic symptoms including inability to stand, difficulty walking, lethargy, and urine dribbling).
- If elevated temperature, respiratory signs, or EHM-compatible clinical signs are noticed, contact your veterinarian.

**Upcoming equine events:** Equine Herpes Virus can be shed for prolonged periods of time, including in clinically healthy horses, which increases risk for continued disease spread during a EHV/EHM outbreak.

- **Event Organizers:** We recommend you consult with your veterinarian and understand the risks associated with hosting equine events during a multi-state outbreak and the execution of biosecurity strategies for these events.

- A Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI) issued by a Category II Accredited Veterinarian is **required**. A CVI is required whether the movement of the animal to that show is interstate or intrastate.
- Please keep in mind the Maryland Department of Agriculture is responsible for enforcing both intrastate and interstate animal movement requirements and event organizers have the power to implement as strict entry requirements to their event as they see fit.
- We encourage event organizers to reach out to us at [animalhealth.mda@maryland.gov](mailto:animalhealth.mda@maryland.gov) with any specific questions and to make us aware of events planned in the near future (within the next 28 days). Please provide specific points of contact of individuals with decision making authority using the [MDA Notification of Livestock Event](#) form.
- The Department does **NOT** get involved in setting additional entry requirements to equine events. We will implement quarantine authority or prohibit movement to events if the disease risk is deemed too great.
- Consider working with a private veterinarian to provide CVI review at the event.
- Cancellation or postponement of events may be important to stop continued spread of disease.

- **Horse Owners:** We recommend that you consult with your veterinarian on the risks associated with travel to upcoming equine events. EHV is a ubiquitous virus and commonly present in the environment, so biosecurity measures are paramount to decreasing potential for disease transmission.

**Veterinarians:** If you have a horse with signs of acute neurologic disease, please contact our office at 410-841-5810. If it is after hours, please call 410-841-5971 to reach the veterinarian on call. We will provide guidance on isolation and testing. Diagnosis of EHV can be difficult as periods of viral shedding and viremia may vary - paired samples, including nasal swab and whole blood, is critical.

**Interstate Movement:** Please note that many states may be implementing movement restrictions or new import requirements for equines during this outbreak. Please always check with the state of destination to ensure that you are following import restrictions.

**Routine Veterinary, Dentistry and Farrier Care:** Standards of equine care shall continue without interruption pursuant to [MD Code](#), Criminal Law § 10-604. During this disease outbreak, all veterinarians, equine dentists, and farriers are directed to maintain and enforce enhanced biosecurity protocols to prevent further transmission of EHV/EHM.

#### ***Equine Herpes Virus Information:***

EHV-1 is spread from horse to horse through contact with nasal discharge or spread as aerosol droplets. Infected horses may not show clinical signs of the virus but may still act as carriers. Horses can also contract the virus by coming into contact with contaminated surfaces such as stalls, water, feed, tack, and transport vehicles. People can spread the virus from horse to horse by contaminated hands and clothing. It is important for owners to watch for signs and symptoms and practice biosecurity measures. Good biosecurity practices include extensive cleaning and disinfection of surfaces and equipment that come in contact with affected horses, and individuals who treat or come into contact with infected horses need to follow appropriate disinfection protocols when handling multiple horses.

Visit the department's [website](#) for the list of Reportable Diseases.

Additional information and resources:

- [Keeping Horses Healthy During Weekend Events](#)
- [A Guide to Understanding the Neurologic Form of EHV Infection](#)
- [AAEP EHV FAQ](#)
- [AAEP General Biosecurity Guidelines](#)
- [CDFA - AHFSS - AHB - Biosecurity Toolkit for Equine Events](#)
- [EDCC - Updated EHV-1 Outbreak Information](#)
- [AFJ - Farrier Biosecurity](#)
- [IAPF - Farrier Biosecurity](#)
- [MDA Notification of Livestock Event](#)

Please see the accompanying document with the updated equine CVI requirements for movement within and into Maryland, and frequently asked questions. These documents are also available on the MDA Animal Health [webpage](#).

The Maryland Department of Agriculture State Veterinarian's Office may be reached any time at **410-841-5810**.

Regards,



Dr Jennifer Trout, DVM  
State Veterinarian  
Animal Health Program  
Maryland Department of Agriculture

## **Emergency EHV Maryland Requirements and FAQ's**

**Updated equine movement requirements on the [MDA website](#):**

**Due to the current Equine Herpes Virus (EHV-1) multi-state outbreak, Maryland is instituting the following actions. Effective immediately:**

1. The use of EECVI's is suspended until further notice.
2. Interstate certificates of veterinary inspection (ICVIs) for equids originating from all states are required.
3. An intrastate certificate of veterinary inspection is required for all equine events within Maryland.
4. Equids originating from states other than Maryland with confirmed EHV-1 cases within the past 30 days must have a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI) issued within five (5) days prior to travel.
5. The following statement must be included on all equid CVI's:

*"The equine(s) listed on this CVI have, during the 21 days prior to the shipment date, not originated from a premises under EHV-1 quarantine, not been exposed to an EHV-1 positive equine, and not attended any event where an EHV-1 positive equine has been confirmed or suspected."*

**These actions supersede the current animal import regulations on the website. Failure to comply with these requirements may result in regulatory or legal action.**

**Please be aware that many states are changing their entry requirements for equids. You will need to contact the state of destination for the most current requirements.**

An updated, confirmed list of EHV/EHM cases can be found on the [EDCC website](#).

## FAQ's - updated 12/31/2025

- 1. What is a CVI?** A CVI is a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection also known as a health certificate. This is an official document issued by a licensed, accredited veterinarian. These are **issued within 10 days** of the veterinarian examining your horse, unless state requirements indicate otherwise.

***For the current outbreak, horses from states other than Maryland with confirmed EHV-1 cases within the past 30 days must have a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI) issued within five (5) days prior to travel.***

- 2. What is an intrastate CVI?** This is a CVI that is required when you are originating from Maryland and you are traveling **WITHIN** the state of Maryland.
- 3. What is an interstate CVI?** This is a CVI that is required when you are originating from Maryland and traveling to **ANOTHER** state or vice versa.
- 4. How long is a CVI good for?** A CVI is valid for 30 days from the date it was issued.
- 5. What if my horse is going to multiple events, does each event need to be listed on the CVI?** No, the first event the horse is attending would be the destination location on the CVI. Any additional events the horse attends within 30 days of the CVI being issued are valid.
- 6. We use the EECVI through Global Vet Link. Is this acceptable?** No, at this time EECVIs (Extended Equine Certificate Of Veterinary Inspection) from Global VetLink are not being accepted for equine movements from any state.
- 7. If I am going to multiple events do I need multiple CVI's?** No, a CVI is valid for 30 days from the date it was issued. If the events occur more than 30 days apart, you will need to obtain a new CVI.
- 8. What are the requirements for a horse traveling out of state?** Check the state you are traveling to for their current equine import requirements. State import requirements change frequently, especially during a disease outbreak.
- 9. What is an equine event?** An equine event is any gathering (indoor or outdoor) in which horses from different farms, owners, or locations come into close proximity and share common spaces. This includes situations where horses may have direct or indirect contact - such as through shared arenas, barns, equipment, trailers, or people - creating opportunities for disease transmission. Equine events include fox hunting, trail riding, lessons, paper trails, parades, etc.
- 10. Can my horse still receive veterinary, dentistry, and farrier care?** Yes. Standards of equine care should continue without interruption pursuant to [MD Code](#), Criminal Law, § 10-604. Veterinarians, equine dentists, and farriers use biosecurity precautions every day to reduce the risk of disease transmission. This includes scheduling routine exams and vaccinations earlier in the day, while reserving sick-horse appointments for the end of the day. They also use foot

baths, wear protective coveralls, and disinfect equipment between patients. These routine practices help protect your horse, as well as the next client's from the spread of disease.

**11. How long will these requirements be in place?** These requirements will remain in place unless and until the Department issues updated guidance.