



Keeping Horses Healthy During Weekend Events

Before the event:

- Maintain contact information (names, email addresses and cell phones) for participants, electronically preferred.
- If there is a disease outbreak in the state prior to the event, consider having vet checks, or requiring certificates of veterinary inspection (CVI), and Coggins Test.
 - Further, have a plan for when competitors show up without required information.
- Recommend horses that come to the event be vaccinated.
 - Consider requiring Flu/Rhino (influenza/EHV) and rabies which are contagious/infectious diseases.
- Do not allow sick horses to come to the event.
 - Talk with competitors about taking temperatures before and after the events in a disease outbreak.
 - Look for: nasal discharge, diarrhea, horse acting "off", check temperature. If the temperature is over 101.5°F, consult a veterinarian.
 - Send sick horses home immediately, maintain owner information in case of infectious disease being reported, and consider the location of an isolation pen or area.
- Be informed of equine diseases both locally and nationally at the [Equine Disease Communication Center](#).

At the Event:

- Limit horse to horse contact, as much as possible.

- Park trailers with horses tied on opposite sides.
- Maintain a minimum of 30 feet between tied horses.
- If stables are provided:
 - Have solid barriers between stalls and/or have empty stalls between horses if possible.
 - Have a disinfection protocol.
- Try to park contestants who are staying overnight, away from contestants who are hauling in and leaving.
- Avoid indirect horse to horse contact.
 - **No** shared water tanks.
 - **No** shared buckets, tack or grooming supplies.
 - Wash your hands.
 - Do not put the end of the hose in water buckets.
- Have separate areas for manure and trash storage, away from where horses are kept.
- Recommend contestants keep fly spray, or fly sheets on horses to help limit insect-borne diseases.
- Discourage dogs at events, they pose liability issues and have the potential to spread diseases.

After Event if a Horse is Reported with Clinical Signs of Concern:

- Contact your veterinarian and [State Animal Health Official](#) to discuss the situation and plan the next steps.
 - Have a contact list of contestants that attended the event.

Additional information and resources:

- [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](#)