



Do not share feed or water containers or tack and equipment unless it is properly cleaned and disinfected.

Avoid nose to nose contact with horses from other locations.

If possible, isolate your horse for at least two weeks after returning from an event.

Biosecurity For Equine Event Planners

Event planners have the duty to care for participating horses. An outbreak of an infectious disease during or after an equine event can significantly impact the horse industry.

Some equine infectious disease agents are naturally occurring in the environment and may be present on your event grounds.

Infectious disease agents may be brought onsite by apparently healthy carrier animals. Stress may cause a carrier animal to get sick while at an event. The animal can then shed the pathogen and expose susceptible horses.

Event Organizers Responsibilities

- Develop a biosecurity plan.
- Emphasize to event participants the need to manage their own biosecurity risks.
- Only healthy horses should be allowed to enter the venue grounds. Require participants to provide documents showing negative Coggins (EIA) results and proof of core vaccination.
- Arrange for a veterinarian to be available on site or on call.
- Manage or minimize public access to stable areas.
- Provide a sufficient number of footbaths and handwashing stations.
- Spread stabling allocation as much as possible.
- Designate an isolation stall to be used in case a horse is sick.
- Sanitize stalls in between events.
- Have a contingency plan in the event of a disease outbreak.

Visit our website for more detailed fact sheets on equine biosecurity.

Contact us

- Call us at 204-945-7663 in Winnipeg
- Email us at chiefveterinaryoffice@gov.mb.ca
- Go to manitoba.ca/agriculture
- Follow us on Twitter @MBGovAg

For more information, you can also contact your veterinarian.

Available in alternate formats upon request.

Equine Biosecurity Protecting the health of horses



WHAT IS

Equine Biosecurity?

Biosecurity is a set of management principles, actions, precautions and procedures that protect the health of animals by minimizing the transmission of potentially infectious disease onto or off of equine premises.

Horses can be exposed to diseases through common sources of infectious agents, including:

- other horses
- people transferring disease on clothing, hands or shoes
- feces
- insect vectors
- rodents, birds, other domestic animals, pets and wildlife
- fomites (inanimate objects capable of carrying microorganisms, such as buckets, wheelbarrows, shovels or tack)
- blood and other bodily fluids

Horses can become more susceptible to disease when they are:

- in high density populations
- commingled
- stressed
- transported
- exposed to horses that are sick or to horses that appear healthy, but are shedding infectious microorganisms



Stress can cause increased susceptibility to disease in horses by affecting their immune systems and lowering their defenses against biological agents.

Horses that participate in events away from home can experience stress associated with travel, an unfamiliar environment and competition.

Biosecurity For Horse Owners

Biosecurity measures help reduce the possibility of your horses getting a serious disease and introducing it to your property. They also help you control the spread of disease between healthy and sick animals on the same property.

By establishing strict equine biosecurity practices at home and while travelling, you will help ensure safety for your own horses and the other horses you may come into contact with.

Vaccination and General Health

Vaccination will help increase resistance to specific diseases and minimize the chances that your horses will become infected. Discuss the particular needs of your horses with your veterinarian.

Fever (rectal temperature of more than 38.5°C or 101.3°F) is a common early warning sign of infectious disease. Monitoring the temperature of your horses is a useful tool for early disease detection.

Types of horses that may be more susceptible to infectious diseases include:

- very young horses
- very old horses
- horses under stress
- horses recovering from injury or disease

If you have sick horses or horses under quarantine on your property, restrict access to the area where they are housed.

Biosecurity For Equine Event Participants

Horses that are suspected of suffering from an infectious or contagious disease, or have been in contact with sick animals, **MUST NOT** be brought to horse events.

Ask in advance about the event's biosecurity plans and be prepared to follow them. For example:

- vaccination requirements
- Equine Infectious Anemia (Coggins) testing

Remove any old bedding that might be present in your horse's assigned stall at the event. Clean and disinfect all surfaces your horse will have contact with.

Check your horse's temperature twice daily. If your horse develops a fever or signs of illness, contact a veterinarian and an event official immediately.