

Equine Herpesvirus Myeloencephalopathy (EHM) (12-11-14)

Definitions.

Subpart 1. **Close association.** "Close association" means horses that have had (1) direct nose-to-nose contact, (2) that have shared water or feed pails, or (3) that have been kept within the same building or trailer.

Subp. 2. **EHM.** "EHM" means "equine herpesvirus myeloencephalopathy", a syndrome of horses with neurological symptoms caused by EHV-1 infection.

Subp. 3. **EHM exposed horse.** "EHM- exposed horse" means (1) any horse that has been held in close association with an EHM positive horse at the time the disease is diagnosed or within 72 hours prior to the onset of neurological symptoms, or (2) any horse on a premises where an EHM- positive horse is identified if other horses on the same premises subsequently become ill due to infection with EHV-1.

Subp. 4. **EHM positive horse.** An "EHM positive horse" is one that has tested positive on an official test for EHV-1 and has neurological symptoms consistent with EHM.

Subp. 5. **EHV-1.** "EHV-1" means "equine herpesvirus type 1", a virus that can cause a potentially serious disease in horses. EHV-1 can cause abortion in mares, respiratory disease and neurological symptoms.

Subp. 6. **Official test for EHV-1.** An official test for EHV-1 is a real-time polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) test conducted on nasal swabs or blood samples at a laboratory approved by the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians (AAVLD), a confirmed necropsy diagnosis, virus isolation, or other test approved by the board.

Equine herpesvirus myeloencephalopathy (EHM).

Subpart 1. **EHV-1 test procedures.** Samples for official EHV-1 tests must be collected by or under the direct supervision of an accredited veterinarian.

Subp. 2. **EHM quarantine procedures.** The board shall immediately quarantine all EHM positive horses and EHM exposed horses in accordance with this subpart.

A. Movement of quarantined horses to other premises is prohibited without written permission from the board.

B. All horses on a premises where an EHM positive horse is identified must (1) be monitored closely for fever or symptoms of illness consistent with EHV-1, (2) have rectal temperatures taken and recorded every 12 hours until the quarantine is released, and (3) be officially tested for EHV-1 if they have a fever greater than or equal to 102°F or exhibit clinical symptoms consistent with EHV-1 infection. Required tests must be performed at the owner's expense unless state or federal funds are available for this purpose.

C. EHM positive horses must be quarantined and isolated from all other horses. The isolation stall or enclosure must be located well away from high traffic areas associated with other barns or training areas. Animal caregivers must take precautionary measures to ensure that they do not transmit disease to other horses through contaminated hands, clothing, equipment or tack. The isolation facility must be managed by or under the supervision of a licensed veterinarian.

D. EHM exposed horses must be quarantined and kept separate from other horses.

E. Quarantines for horses on premises where an EHM positive horse is identified shall be released 21 days after the date when the last horse on the premises that shows clinical symptoms of illness due to EHV-1 infection has recovered.

F. Quarantines for EHM exposed horses on other premises shall be released (1) 21 days after the date of quarantine if the EHM exposed horse shows no clinical symptoms of illness due to EHV-1, or (2) 21 days after the EHM exposed horse has recovered if it becomes ill and shows clinical symptoms consistent with EHV-1 infection.

G. Stalls and trailers where EHM positive horses are kept and equipment used to care for EHM positive horses must be cleaned and disinfected in a manner approved by the board.

Subp. 4. **Community notification.** Following the declaration of quarantine of an EHM positive horse, the board shall in a timely manner post on its Web site the name and location of the facility where the EHM positive horse is identified and any other locations where the EHM positive horse was kept in the 72 hours prior to the onset of neurological symptoms.