Pennsylvania
Department of Agriculture
Bureau of Animal Health and Diagnostic Services

Equine Health and Biosecurity Guide for Pennsylvania Equine Events

The Bureau of Animal Health and Diagnostic Services is providing this resource titled "Equine Health and Biosecurity Guide" to provide general equine health and biosecurity guidance as well as equine disease response guidance for equestrian events in Pennsylvania. This resource guide provides additional science-based principles for equine health, biosecurity, disease prevention, response and recovery. This is solely information for event and facility management to consider for their event and venue. Because the Resource Guide is intended to provide general guidelines and recommendations, not all contents will apply to every equine event.

This Guide also includes equine disease response recommendations. These are general recommendations that may or may not encompass all possible equine disease responses. The final response decisions should be made by event management in consultation with the event veterinarian.

Disclaimer: The safety of all equine and human participants is paramount to Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Animal Health and Diagnostic Services (Bureau). This Guide is provided solely as an informational and educational service to Pennsylvania equine event organizers. Each event's policies, procedures, and protocols are the responsibility of the individual event management. The Bureau does not intend the information set forth in this guidance document to cover all possible biosecurity or equine health matters and issues that may arise or be present at any Pennsylvania equine event, nor to usurp or in any manner require changes to the policies, procedures or protocols of the equine event. The information contained herein is merely guidance. Given the breath of matters and issues that may arise at any Pennsylvania equine event the Bureau does not claim that the information presented in this guidance document will pertain to all issues that may arise and does not attest to or in any manner warrant the accuracy and completeness of any information or material provided herein. This Guide is not intended to, nor does it constitute medical, veterinary, or legal advice or legal opinions and should not be relied upon as medical, veterinary, or legal advice or opinion. By using this Guide, you agree to this disclaimer and recognize that it may be necessary to seek the advice of a licensed veterinarian or a licensed attorney.

Key Recommendations:

- Ensure that an event veterinarian is available to advise on biosecurity and respond to reports of illness.
- Before the event, develop biosecurity plans for the event in consultation with the event veterinarian. Create isolation/ disease mitigation plans and emergency communication plans and distribute these plans to event participants in advance. Prepare signage to reinforce key biosecurity practices.
- The biosecurity plan should establish health entry requirements and include a plan to check that all horses meet these requirements, either in advance or upon arrival. Requirements should include documentation that the horse has not had a fever (rectal temperature ≥ 101.5F) in the three days before arrival, and twice daily temperature monitoring should continue while the horses are on site.
- Visit event site in advance to develop a plan to quickly evaluate and isolate ill horses.
- During the event, establish protocols for regular cleaning and disinfecting of common areas.
- Educate event participants about good biosecurity practices, including handwashing and avoiding sharing equipment. Discourage participant contact in common areas such as practice rings and design the flow of traffic to minimize opportunities for horse-to-horse contact.
- Keep detailed records of which horses attended the event and where they were housed to help identify horses that are most at risk in the event of an outbreak.
- Establish communications with the Bureau of Animal Health and Diagnostic Services prior to the event.

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PART 1: General Equine Health and Biosecurity Guidance

A. Before the Competition

1. **Official Veterinarian** – The official veterinarians play an essential role in ensuring the health and safety of the competition horses. The Bureau has the following recommendations, which should be taken into consideration when selecting the official veterinarian.
    a. The individual is a licensed graduate of an accredited veterinary school in good standing with the Pennsylvania Veterinary Medical Board.
    b. The individual has experience in equine veterinary practice.
    c. All events should have a written agreement for a veterinarian to be on call for the event.
    d. Events where equines are remaining on site for more than 24 hours should have an onsite official veterinarian.
    e. Event management to submit to the Bureau, through email or regular mail, the designated competition veterinarian or veterinary clinic contact information no less than seven (7) days prior to the start of competition. (Contact information includes name, email and phone number).
    f. The Bureau strongly recommends that the contact information for a named individual veterinarian rather than generic clinic contact is provided to the Bureau in advance of the event as that is the contact information the Bureau uses in the event of an equine health and safety emergency when immediate contact is essential.

2. **Isolation Plan and Isolation Stabling** – A critical component to preventing and controlling a disease outbreak is the immediate isolation of a sick horse. The recommendation for an isolation plan and isolation stalls/stabling are as followed:
    a. **Plans are strongly recommended when there is overnight stabling of Event Horses**
        i. One day shows where no event horses stay overnight are exempt
        ii. All plans should include of the specific location of isolation stalls, namely the designated onsite barn/pasture/lot or the designated offsite location.
    b. Every venue and every event pose unique disease risk. The Bureau recommends event management work with event veterinarian in the development of the appropriate isolation stabling location and plan for the event.
3. **Isolation Stabling Set up** – Ideally, setting up the isolation stabling before sick horse is identified saves precious time. Set up includes the following steps, identifying stock of personal protective equipment such as gloves, booties, disposable coveralls, designate feed tub, water bucket, feed, hay, bedding, hose, muck bucket and pitchfork and posting contact information for emergency veterinary clinic and carcass removal services. Signage placed on the exterior of the stabling area restricts access to the area.
4. **Equine Health Entry Requirements** – Ensuring only healthy horses enter the competition grounds is essential for a healthy competition. Horses traveling from out of state must meet import requirements for entry into Pennsylvania. These can be found on the Department's website Domestic Animal Import Requirements | Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. All

horses at an Animal Exhibition (as defined in the PA Animal Exhibition Sanitation Act) must have verification of a Veterinary-Client-Patient Relationship. Additional entry standards recommended by the Bureau include:

a. **Health Declaration**: To ensure healthy horses are entering, a health declaration signed by trainer/owner stating each horse has been afebrile (temperature below 101.5F) for the previous 3 days and no exposure to a confirmed case of an equine infectious disease (Equine Herpesvirus, Equine Strangles, or Equine Influenza) in the previous 21 days.
b. **Vaccination recommendations**: The Bureau recommends horses more than 7 months of age, entering the grounds to be accompanied by documentation of Equine Influenza Virus and Equine Herpes Virus (Rhinopneumonitis) vaccinations within six months prior to entering the stables. Although review and verification by management is not required these actions are strongly recommended. Additional, vaccination against rabies with documentation of vaccination is highly recommend.
c. **Negative Coggins**: A negative Coggins tests within 12 months prior to the entry to the competition grounds. If Coggins expires during the event, a new Coggins should be required.
d. **Healthy Horse Entry**: A horse with any visual signs of illness at time of offloading shall be prohibited entry or be placed in isolation until examined by a veterinarian.
e. **In the Event of a Disease Outbreak**: When a disease outbreak is occurring in the area or in a population of horses which are likely to participate in the event, additional health requirements may be necessary. Event management are encouraged to visit the Equine Disease Center Alert Webpage for the most recent equine disease outbreak information https://www.equinediseasecc.org/ and consult the event veterinarian and the Bureau to determine if additional entry requirements are warranted.
f. **Scheduled Arrival Time** – To ensure health documents are reviewed upon entry, implement policy to schedule arrival times with show representative available to review paperwork. If possible, set up an electronic mechanism for receipt of health documentation for review and approval prior to event entry.

All health entry requirements for the show should be communicated to all participants in advance of the event including not limited to publication in prize list, on event website, on social media, in email communications and at show office bulletin board.

5. **The Bureau's Role** – The Bureau has oversight of an equine regulatory disease response. Not all equine diseases require a regulatory response; thus, it is important to know what diseases are reportable and regulated in Pennsylvania. A list of reportable equine diseases in Pennsylvania can be found at www.padls.agriculture.pa.gov/InnerPages/Reportable_Diseases.html. Veterinarians are obligated to report confirmed or suspected cases of reportable diseases to the Bureau at 717-772-2852. Reaching out and having discussions with the Bureau prior to the event may be beneficial, as a meet and greet during a disease response can be challenging.

6. **Biosecurity Plan and Protocols**: The Bureau recommends each event develop a written biosecurity plan which includes biosecurity protocols for staff, event participants, and the public. Points to consider in the development of a biosecurity plan:
    a. **Equine Infectious Diseases are in the Environment:** It is important to remember equine infectious diseases are in the environment. However, the amount of virus or bacteria is dependent upon the time of year, weather, and the horses. During the fall and winter, there is typically an increase in equine herpesvirus and influenza (flu). The hot dry summer environment has less equine herpesvirus. However, horses are typically exposed to equine herpesvirus at a young age, and the virus is latent (hides in the horse) and can reactivate causing the horse to shed virus at any time. Hence the reason for equine herpesvirus to be in many horse environments and the need for a biosecurity plan and measures taken at events to protect equine health.
    b. **Identification of disease risk for venue and event:** A simple walk through of the venue and review of current management protocols can identify areas of risk for disease pathogen entry and spread. A Facility Biosecurity Risk Assessment tool can assist in this process: https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/ahfss/Animal_Health/pdfs/A.pdf
    c. **Cleaning and Disinfecting of Stabling and Common Areas** – Decreasing the amount of virus and bacteria on the grounds is essential to preventing exposure. Prior to horse arrival, event officials shall inspect the stabling and common areas to ensure proper cleaning and disinfecting has been completed.
        i. **Cleaning**: Most disinfectants need to be applied to a surface free of organic debris in order to be effective. For stalls with manure or soiled bedding remaining, additional cleaning may need to be performed before disinfection steps commence.
        ii. **Selecting the appropriate disinfectant**: There are several different categories of disinfectants, and they each have different properties and different activity. Thus, selecting the proper disinfectant for the surface and pathogens of concern is critical. This table provides recommendations for effective disinfectants appropriate for use on different surfaces: https://aaep.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/AAEP-Biosecurity-Guidelines-Disinfectant-Table.pdf
    d. **Biosecurity Signage** – The Bureau recommends biosecurity messaging signage be utilized during the event to encourage good practices by all. The following is a list of available biosecurity messaging signage
        i. Fever Reporting: https://www.usef.org/forms-pubs/TiyPBDi68K8/fever-flyer
        ii. Biosecurity Tips and Checklist https://www.usef.org/forms-pubs/BAw-sGCDY0M/biosecurity-tips-checklists
        iii. Top Tips for keeping horses healthy (English and Spanish) : https://www.usef.org/forms-pubs/h9Ye5pbckFM/top-tips-for-keeping-horses-healthy
        iv. Exhibitor Biosecurity Pamphlet https://www.usef.org/forms-pubs/Kgxcgp4ytKE/exhibitor-biosecurity-measures-pamphlet
        v. Don't share Equipment https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/ahfss/Animal_Health/pdfs/H.pdf

7. **Competitor Biosecurity Protocols for the Event –** Equine health and biosecurity measures expected of event participant should be documented and notified to the participants. Participants shall agree at time of entry to abide by the biosecurity protocols and failure to do so may result from removal from the event grounds. Basic biosecurity policy recommendations include:
    a. **Temperature Monitoring** – An elevated temperature is typically the first sign of an infectious disease and in many cases, it is elevated before the horse is shedding a virus or bacteria. Thus, twice daily temperature taking is essential to protecting the health of all horses at the event. The Bureau strongly recommends event management encourage health monitoring with a temperature taking and recording requirement. An example of a temperature log available for use: https://www.usef.org/forms-pubs/OBrQV_x6kNA/temperature-log
        i. Considerations when monitoring a horse's temperature
            1. Temperature over 101.5F is considered a fever (a febrile horse)
            2. Temperatures should be taken 12 hours apart.
            3. Temperatures should be taken 2 hours after exercise or trailering.
            4. Temperatures should be taken prior to any medications which may alter the temperature such as phenylbutazone ("bute") or flunixin (Banamine).
            5. Temperatures of horses on firocoxib products (e.g., Equioxx) will have a longer temperature suppression and anything above 100.5F should be considered a fever
            6. Not all fevers are due to an infectious disease, thus horses with fever should be evaluated by a veterinarian to determine cause.
            7. Biothermal microchips are a safe and efficient way to measure temperature.
        ii. **Reporting of Fever** – Any temperature over 101.5F to be reported to event management or veterinarian. If a reportable disease, including EHM, is suspected, it must be reported to the Bureau.
        iii. **Signage for Fever Reporting:** Examples of signage are available for event management to post on the event grounds:
            1. https://www.usef.org/forms-pubs/Hw2khquid8s/reporting-fever-horse-owner-flowchart
            2. https://www.usef.org/forms-pubs/TiyPBDi68K8/fever-flyer
        iv. **Fever Reports to Event Management and the Bureau**:
            1. The key information to report is the location of the horse on the show grounds, clinical signs, if it was moved to isolation and any plans for testing or further evaluation.
        v. **Management of the Fever Case**: The event veterinarian should evaluate each case to determine potential cause of the fever. A flow chart can aid in determining next steps: https://www.usef.org/forms-pubs/UDQg27lnV-Q/reporting-fever-veterinarian

b. **Reporting of Sick Horse in Isolation:** Any horse moved to isolation or off site to a veterinary hospital as suspect infectious disease case shall be reported to event management, event veterinarian, and if a reportable disease is suspected, the Bureau. All potential infectious disease case should be placed in isolation. The criteria for placing a horse in isolation shall be communicated to all parties in advance of the event. The Bureau recommends the following criteria for a horse to be moved to isolation as a potential infectious disease case: profuse diarrhea for more than 1 day, cough or significant nasal discharge of more than 1 day, and neurologic clinical signs such as wobbling or uncoordinated gait, urine dribbling, head tilt.
    i. Anyone who fails to move horse to isolation upon request should be required to leave the premises.

c. **Testing of Febrile or Sick Horses:** It is strongly recommended that any febrile or clinical horse examined by veterinarian and suspected of having an equine infectious disease be tested at owner expense. Any horse suspected of having an infectious disease that is not tested should remain in isolation until it is tested or removed from the property.

d. **Compliance and Enforcement of Biosecurity Protocol** – Compliance and enforcement of biosecurity is critical to ensuring healthy horses and continuance of event. Notification of participants of developed compliance and enforcement protocols increases awareness of the importance of biosecurity to protect equine health at the event grounds.
    i. **Event participants should be required to follow biosecurity protocols mandated by event management.** Event management should be prepared to pursue action against any participants failure to comply with event biosecurity written protocols, including potentially removing them from the event. It is important to note, for enforcement purposes the protocols should be in writing and provided to the participant in advance or at the time of entry to the event.

8. **Equine Health and Biosecurity Information:** Event managers are encouraged to put all equine health and biosecurity requirements for their event in the event information publication to ensure participant awareness. Recommended message includes but is not limited to the following: (Note it is a summary of the above points)
    a. **Temperature Monitoring:** Twice daily temperature monitoring is required while on the event grounds. In the event of elevated disease risk or an infectious disease incursion management will notify competitors of mandatory twice daily temperature monitoring and recording (ideally 12 hours apart and prior to any temperature reducing medication (e.g., NSAIDS including phenylbutazone (“bute”) or flunixin (Banamine)). Temperature logs will be provided for placement on the stall door for recording of temperatures.
    b. **Reporting of Febrile Horse:** Any horse with a temperature over 101.5F is required to be reported immediately to the event management and veterinarian. A veterinarian should examine the horse to determine the next steps. Any horse suspected of an infectious disease will be required to immediately enter isolation stabling or be

removed from the property. The Bureau should be notified if such actions are taken by the event management or veterinarian when a reportable disease is suspected.

c. **Reporting of Sick Horse:** Report to a veterinarian, any horse with observable signs of illness including but not limited to nasal discharge, abnormal gait, change in feed or water consumption and change in behavior.
d. **Testing of Febrile and Sick Horse:** If the event veterinarian suspects a potential infectious disease, the horse may be required to be tested at the owner's expense. If the owner/trainer chooses not to submit to testing, the horse may be asked to leave the competition venue.
e. **Exposed Horse Monitoring:** Horses deemed exposed to a horse confirmed positive for an infectious disease will be required to take and record temperature twice daily.
f. **Failure to Comply with Biosecurity Measures:** Individuals who fail to comply with any biosecurity requirements should be removed from the premises.

9. **Designated Biosecurity Personnel:** For successful implementation of biosecurity measures at an event, individuals responsible for the specific actions should be designated and notified of responsibilities in advance of the event. The individuals should be designated based on their skills for the responsibilities related to general biosecurity and response to a disease detection. Consider having a designated individual to perform the following core functions
    a. Isolation Set Up – Set up isolation stabling, equipment, supplies and PPE.
    b. Isolation Security – Restrict access to the isolation stabling
    c. Carcass Removal – To remove dead/euthanized horse to appropriate disposal
    d. Emergency Veterinary Clinic – To provide emergency medical care for sick horses
    e. Communications Point Contact – To contact regulatory officials.
    f. Biosecurity Compliance to oversee biosecurity protocols for exposed horses.

10. **Equine Health and Biosecurity Communications**: Prior to an infectious disease event, development of a communication plan which includes draft messaging is critical as quick accurate messaging early on during the disease incident can make the difference between the health and illness of exposed competition horses. A designated individual should be the spokesperson for the incident. A designated messaging system should be identified and competitors notified of where to go for the most current and accurate.

B. Equine Health and Biosecurity Considerations During the Competition

1. **Venue Walk Through**: As many event grounds are shared by various types of events, it is important to walk through the event grounds before participants arrive. Oftentimes, a walk though of the barns, temporary tents and common areas may identify disease risks such as organic material remaining in the stalls or dirty stalls which may not have been cleaned and disinfected. Early identification allows time for steps to be taken to address the risk. A walk through also allows for adequate distribution of biosecurity signage.

2. **Horse Arrivals**: Ensuring only healthy horses enter the event is essential to the health of the competition. If health documents are not reviewed and verified in advance of arrival, review on arrival is strongly recommended. Any horse which does not meet the health entry requirements should be prohibited entry or placed in isolation until such time as the requirements are met.
    a. **Examination/Inspections on arrival**: A disease outbreak in the event or in horses of the same discipline where there is potential exposure, may warrant onsite examination of horses at the time of arrival to ensure the health of the animal.
    b. At a minimum, event staff and officials should be observing horses on the show grounds for any obvious clinical signs of disease.
3. **Maintaining a Healthy Event Grounds:** Biosecurity protocols should be implemented for the duration of the event, including but not limited to cleaning and disinfecting of common areas, manure management, weather and environmental monitoring, and monitoring disease events in the area.
    a. **Restocking and Cleaning and Disinfection** – Encouraging biosecurity practices requires event management to do their part on ensuring supplies are available such as restocking hand sanitizing stations and verifying common areas are routinely cleaned prior to application of appropriate disinfectant for the surface.
4. **Monitoring Horse Health and Biosecurity**
    a. **Temperature Log Review** – If temperature logging is required by the event, some log reviews should be conducted by designated event representative. Review of the logs can lead to early identification of sick horses. Any horse with rising temperatures should be noted and monitored throughout the competition. Reviews of the charts also identify noncompliance issues.
    b. **Observation Biosecurity Practices** – A dedicated biosecurity officer or an event official with responsibilities for walking through the event grounds acts as eyes and ears for biosecurity lapses or early identification of an infectious disease introduction and spread. This action demonstrates the importance management is placing on protecting equine health during the competition.
5. **Biosecurity Messaging:** Continued biosecurity messaging through social media, event announcer or signage emphasis the importance of biosecurity to the event management. The five top tips are quick and easy to share:
    a. Limit horse to horse contact
    b. Limit human to horse contact to essential personnel
    c. Avoid sharing of equipment unless it has been cleaned and disinfected between use.
    d. Avoid communal water
    e. Monitor horse's temperature twice daily and report any temperatures over 101.5F to a veterinarian
    f. Direct contact of participants with other horses and their tack, especially bits/bridals, should be discouraged.

Part 2: Equine Disease (Sick Horse) Response Guidance

1. **Important Reminders**
    1. **It is expected that some horses may occasionally become ill and develop a fever at an event.**
    2. **Not all fevers are due to an infectious disease.**
        i. Colic, cellulitis, or abscesses can cause a horse to be febrile.
    3. **All fevers should be investigated to determine potential causes.**
        i. Oftentimes fever is the first sign of infectious disease.
    4. **EHV-1 is endemic and in the environment. Cases of EHV-1 are routinely diagnosed**. Most horses have been or will be exposed to EHV-1.
        i. A single detection of EHV-1 in one horse warrants biosecurity measures but not panic.
        ii. Multiple cases of EHV-1 on a premises is cause for significant concern as that is indicative of spread of virus.
        iii. Neurologic signs in addition to fever or diagnosis with EHV-1 is consistent with EHM and must be reported.
2. **Initial Response to a Sick Horse: Within the first hour**
    a) **Identification of a Sick Horse**: A horse with a fever, nasal discharge and diarrhea can shed a virus or bacteria into the environment and may pose a risk to all horses on the event ground. Immediate reporting by responsible party to the event management and/ or veterinarian is critical.
        i) Unexplained temperatures over 101.5F are required to be reported to the event management and veterinarian.
        ii) Flowchart provides guidance on management of a febrile horse.
            1. Horse owner https://www.usef.org/forms-pubs/Hw2khquid8s/reporting-fever-horse-owner-flowchart
            2. Veterinarian https://www.usef.org/forms-pubs/UDQg27lnV-Q/reporting-fever-veterinarian
    b) Veterinary Evaluation: A veterinarian examination of the sick horse provides critical insight into the potential infectious disease risk of a sick horse.
        i) If the veterinary exam determines a **non-infectious cause** of clinical signs the horse may be able to remain in the stabling area and competition.
        ii) If the veterinary exam reveals potential for the horse to be **infectious** or contagious, moving horse to isolation for further diagnostic testing is the best precaution.
    c) **Diagnostic Testing:** Diagnostic testing is strongly recommended for any potential case of infectious disease. A diagnostic testing plan is dependent upon what is available at the time of the identification of the sick horse, as confirmatory testing by at an approved laboratory may not be available on the weekend.
        1. **Screening Tests:** Some veterinarian may have access to onsite screening tests for equine infectious disease. Some of these tests are in the development stage and should be used with caution and should be followed up with confirmatory testing. Any screening test positive should be handled as positive infectious disease case and moved to isolation.

ii) **Confirmatory Tests**: Confirmatory tests are done at a laboratory and will provide confirmation of the status of the horse on the day the sample was taken.
    1. Horses may occasionally test negative on an initial test but positive for EHV-1 on subsequent testing.
    2. For febrile horses testing negative on initial test, some cases may warrant additional sampling 24-48 hours later.

(ii) **Recommended testing for febrile:**
    1. Blood and nasal swab submitted for Respiratory PCR panel testing (EHV1, EHV4, Equine Influenza, Equine Rhinitis, Strangles)
    2. Quantitative results should be requested from the laboratory to assist in the development of appropriate response plan.

d) **Activation of Isolation Plan:** Removing the sick horse from general population to isolation is a critical control step in stopping disease spread. Isolation stabling set up prior to the event should be equipped to immediately accommodate the movement of the sick horse. Once isolation is activated, dedicate personnel to restrict access to isolation stabling to designated individuals. If isolation stabling is off site, contact is made with the transport company for the sick horse.

e) **Care of Isolated Horse**: Horse in onsite isolation will require a designated individual to care for the horse. The individual shall not enter any other areas of the event grounds after entry to isolation stabling unless he/she has showered, changed clothes and changed footwear. All equipment shall be designated for isolation area and not shared with any other horses or areas of the competition venue.

3. Response to Confirmed Case of Equine Infectious Disease

a. **Receipt of Positive Diagnostic Test** – Upon receipt of positive diagnostic test for an equine infectious disease, veterinarian communicates with event management.

b. **Follow up Bureau Veterinarians** – The event veterinarian shall contact the Bureau with confirmatory testing information for any reportable disease. Bureau veterinarians are available to assist in management of the case. Bureau veterinarians will determine if regulatory action will be taken and if they will take over the response at the competition grounds. If the Bureau takes over the response management, they will provide instructions to event management and veterinarian on how to proceed.

c. **Identification of Exposed Horses** – Potentially exposed horses depend on the disease agent identified and the mode of transmission of that agent. Casting a wider net at the onset can significantly limit the duration of the quarantine or monitoring period. As failure to identify an exposed horse may leave that horse incubating and subsequently shedding disease pathogens further expanding the disease outbreak. Typically, identification of exposed traces back 14 days to horses with potential exposure based on proximity, shared equipment, travel and shared personnel. On an event grounds exposure may include shared

i. **Personnel** – trainer, riders, grooms, braiders, feeders, night watch
ii. **Equipment** – tack, bridles, rags, stall cleaning supplies, hoses
iii. **Areas with potential horse to horse contact** – tack areas, wash areas

Shared personnel identified should be met with individually to determine which horses they had direct contact with after working with infected or exposed horses. Discussion of biosecurity measures taken by the individual will either eliminate or expand the exposed horse list.

d. **Management of Exposed Horses** – Monitoring the health of the exposed horses is essential as early identification and placement in isolation is the most effective way to quickly control disease spread. The quicker disease spread is stopped the quicker the disease is controlled and the quicker the event goes on without restrictions.
    ii) **Movement Restrictions**: Exposed horses shall be restricted to the stabling area and not moved from the assigned stables. Only movement permitted of exposed horses should be off the event grounds to isolate at a home premises with permission of the event management in consultation with the Bureau.
    iii) **Minimum Requirements:** At a minimum the exposed horses should be segregated and have twice daily temperature taking. A normal temperature recording 8-12 hours after the administration of an NSAID should be required prior to removal from stabling for exercise or competition of an exposed horses.
        1. Entering the ring they should limit the horse-to-horse contact and distance themselves from other horses as much as possible.
        2. In some cases of high risk, exposed horses would be restricted to exercise in a designated area to limit potential exposure to other horses during an incubation period.

g. **Quarantine of Infected and Exposed Horses** – Depending on the disease detected, the Bureau may quarantine infected and potentially exposed horses. If a quarantine is placed, designated biosecurity measures will be required for those horses under the quarantine.
    i. Failure to adhere to a state quarantine can have significant consequences.

h. **Activation or Communication Plan for Event** – Communication should be in accordance with the communication plan outlined in the biosecurity plan. Rumors and misinformation are commonly spread about infectious disease cases. Transparency and early communication with all parties is encouraged. The following order of communications are recommended
    i. **In Person Communication with Trainer of Infectious Disease Case:**
        1. Goals: to outline biosecurity requirements and movement restrictions, identify potentially exposed horses, develop monitoring plan and plan for competition of exposed

ii. **In Person Communication with the Trainers in the same barn**
    1. Goals: to outline biosecurity requirements and movement restrictions, develop monitoring plan and plan for competition of exposed

iii. **General Email Communication to all competitors**
    1. Goals: To communicate situation facts and provide general biosecurity messaging.

iv. **In Person Town Hall Type Meeting** Scheduled for all participants to answer questions
    1. Goal to have open communications to hear concerns and issues to ensure all are working together to limit the spread.

v. **For Reportable Disease Events**: The Bureau will be involved in communications with all parties.

vi. **A single case of infectious disease MAY NOT warrant communication** if there is no evidence of spread or exposure risk. However, this should be communicated in advance of the event to the participants to ensure there is no misunderstanding.
    1. Example: febrile horse moved immediately to isolation tests negative on first sample but test positive on sample collected 24-48 hours later.

i. **Exposed Horses Departing the Venue** – Exposed horses under a state quarantine will need permission from the Bureau for removal from the venue. The Bureau will determine requirements for monitoring exposed horses off site. If the time for monitoring period is beyond the length of the event, exposed horses leaving the event grounds should be provided a document with recommendations for monitoring after leaving the venue. If the exposed horses are under quarantine, those horses may not move unless issued a permit from the Bureau.

j. **Monitoring of Rest of the Event Grounds** – Event management should ensure consistent observations of compliance and enforcement action for noncompliance.

Resources

CA Department of Food and Agriculture's Biosecurity Toolkit for Equine Events

Biosecurity videos from EDCC and USEF:

- Biosecurity Prior to Competition
- Biosecurity During Competition
- Biosecurity Post Competition
- Development of an Isolation Plan
- Implementation of an Isolation Plan
- Cleaning and Disinfecting

Cleaning & Disinfection Resources:

- Cleaning vs Disinfecting
- Safe and Effective Disinfectant Use
- AAEP Disinfectant Table

Fever Flow Charts

- For owners
- For veterinarians

Signage:

- Top Tips for Keeping Your Horse Healthy (English & Spanish)
- Fever Reporting
- Hand Washing
- Don't Share Equipment
- For Isolation Areas:
    - Do not enter
    - PPE required

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