

## EVH-1 in Nebraska

According to a press release from Nebraska State Veterinarian, Dr. Dennis Hughes, three cases of Equine Herpes Myeloencephalopathy (EHM) have been confirmed at Fonner Park.

The Nebraska Department of Agriculture in cooperation with Fonner Park management has quarantined the horses located at Fonner Park. Horses located in the Red Barn (where the affected horses were stabled) will not be allowed to race at present time. Racing will continue at Fonner Park with the horses located in the other barns on the premises.

### **More about EHV-1**

EHM is the neurological form of Equine Herpes Virus (EHV-1). Cases of the diseases have been confirmed at several locations around the country, many of them at horse race tracks or events where horses are co-mingled.

EHM symptoms include fever, decreased coordination, nasal discharge, urine dribbling, loss of tail tone and hind limb weakness. Horses may also lean against a wall or fence to maintain balance.

EHM/EHV-1 is usually spread through direct or indirect contact with infected horses. Hughes recommends horse owners minimize their animal's contact with other horses as much as possible. Indirect contact includes using the same water or feed troughs or using the same equipment. The virus does not typically survive very long in the environment or on people or equipment and is killed readily by most disinfectants, ultraviolet light and by drying.

“It is of utmost importance that horse owners and facility managers take appropriate precautions to prevent the spread of this disease,” State Veterinarian Dennis Hughes said in a press release. “Vigilance is especially important in situations where horses can

come into contact with each other. There can be a high susceptibility to the disease where we have horses co-mingling from

Hughes said all horsemen should wash their hands before and after handling a horse and should disinfect boots and clothing that come in contact with other horses other than their own.

**For some of the most current information, you may want to:**

View the eXtension/HorseQuest short course at: **Horse Diseases - Equine Herpesvirus-1 and Equine Herpesvirus Myeloencephalopathy**

Get more information at: eXtension/horsequest – Equine Herpesvirus

View a webinar by My Horse University: **Lessons Learned from Recent Equine Herpesvirus-1 Outbreaks**

Read the brochure on **Equine Herpesvirus (EHV) Myeloencephalopathy: A Guide To Understanding the Neurologic Form of EHV Infection**

For information on biosecurity, visit **Biosecurity for horses**

and to learn how to clean horse equipment

visit <https://www.thehorse.com/videos/30357/how-to-cleandisinfest-horse-equipment>.

**As we enter into horse show season and County fairs, it is critical to continue to practice biosecurity measures.**

1. Keep sick horses at home. Watch for signs of fever, nasal discharge and diarrhea.
2. Wash your hands frequently! Bring water, soap, hand sanitizer and paper towels with you.

3. Clean and disinfect stalls at fairgrounds and show facilities. Spray-on commercial disinfectants are readily available. Diluted bleach (8 ounces bleach to 1 gallon of water) is an inexpensive disinfectant, but it works best on a surface that has been thoroughly cleaned.
4. Do not share feed and water buckets, hay bags, grooming tools, tacks, or manure forks. Disinfect these items frequently and after arriving home from an event. To learn how to clean and disinfect horse equipment visit <https://www.thehorse.com/videos/30357/how-to-clean-disinfect-horse-equipment>
5. Limit exposure. Do not allow horses to have nose to nose contact. Limit the general public's contact with your horses and your contact with other horses.
6. Upon returning home from a show, wash your hands, shower, and change clothing and shoes before working with horses kept at home.
7. Isolate returning horses from resident horses for 14 days. Monitor horses daily for signs of fever, nasal discharge and diarrhea. Remember, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. For information on biosecurity, visit [http://www.aphis.usda.gov/publications/animal\\_health/2011/bro\\_keep\\_horses\\_healthy.pdf](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/publications/animal_health/2011/bro_keep_horses_healthy.pdf)