



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF
FOOD & AGRICULTURE

Karen Ross, Secretary

February 11, 2022

To Desert International Horse Park Event Staff, Trainers, Owners, and Attendees;

CDFA has confirmed one case of Equine Herpes Myeloencephalopathy (EHM) secondary to EHV-1 (wild type/non-neuropathogenic strain) infection on February 11 in a horse at Desert International Horse Park. Two additional febrile-only cases of EHV-1 (wild type/non-neuropathogenic strain) infection have also been confirmed in horses from the same barn. The affected horses have been isolated and quarantined. All potentially exposed horses stabled in the tent barn where these cases were housed have been placed under quarantine.

Epidemiological investigation is ongoing to determine if there has been any additional exposure or transmission beyond the index case's barn, and we appreciate your ongoing patience and diligence in this evolving situation. We recommend that all horses currently at DIHP have their temperatures monitored twice daily, morning and evening prior to exercise, and to immediately notify your veterinarian of any fevers over 101.5F (or over 101.0F if on an NSAID) or any neurological signs. **Prompt isolation of any horses with signs of disease remains our best means of limiting viral spread.**

We also recommend any horses not under quarantine scheduled to leave the horse park keep these horses isolated from other horses and monitor temperatures twice daily for at least 7 days following their departure from the premises. Individuals planning to attend an event at this premises within the next 14 days should discuss their plan with their veterinarians and assess their individual risks; owners and/or trainers should continue to show at their own discretion and risk.

As a reminder of best event biosecurity practices, all horses returning from any equine event should be isolated 30 feet away from other horses for at least 7 days following the event.

CDFA will continue to work with and support show veterinarians, event management, and USEF representatives, and actively monitor the Equine Herpes Myeloencephalopathy (EHM) situation.

Thank you for your patience and diligent attention in protecting the health of your equine partners.

Sincerely,
Dr. Emily Nierzaba, DVM, MPH
Equine Staff Veterinarian
California Department of Food and Agriculture
Animal Health Branch

