



DESERT INTERNATIONAL HORSE PARK
EQUINE BIOSECURITY PROTOCOLS
2022/2023 SEASON

**Requirements and Best Practices for Accessing and Competing
at the Desert International Horse Park**

Effective October 3, 2022

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Introduction

Horse Health. Balanced. Science-Based. Sensible.

These words have framed the discussion we have had over the last six months about what biosecurity measures to implement at the DIHP this upcoming season. Like you, we never want to experience an outbreak of EHV-1 ever again! However, the EHV virus is endemic in any equine population and, although unlikely, there is always a small probability that it can manifest itself into EHV-1 or the more dangerous neurological form of the virus, EHM. That is why it is imperative that all of us take the necessary precautions and diligently employ biosecurity measures to mitigate the risk of virus spread. And so, we have researched, debated, and researched some more. We have obtained insight from a wide range of experienced and expert individuals and institutions including USEF, CDFA, Fluxergy, virology experts at UC Davis, and our veterinary partners at East-West Equine Sports Medicine. Additionally, USEF formed an Equine Infectious Disease Review Panel to analyze the topic and develop appropriate protocols.

The following pages outline the path that we have charted for the upcoming season, at least to start. Undoubtedly, these protocols will change and evolve over time. We'll learn about what works and what doesn't. We'll get input from everyone involved and we'll adjust as warranted.

First and foremost, we appreciate everyone's support. We all have the same goal in mind: protecting horse health. So, we start with and will return to this statement continually. Anything we do or ask you to do is with the sole aim of ensuring the health and well-being of the horses at the show.

We strive to do this in a way that doesn't take away from the enormous enjoyment that people have at the DIHP, so we seek to balance everything we do or ask you to do. COVID taught us about balance and how to frame risk, and the same applies here.

We strive to be science-based. Yet, we have learned that there are not always clear answers or enough facts. So, we are guided by science, with a bit of judgment exercised along the way. What we do know, and can all agree on, is that it takes the participation of everyone to make these measures successful. We all share the responsibility of keeping our horses healthy and safe.

Finally, we ultimately need everyone to read these protocols and best practices and feel that they make sense and that they feel right.

Thank you and we look forward to a great competition season.



Key Contacts

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PART I: Mandatory Requirements for Accessing the Desert International Horse Park

1. Entering the Desert International Horse Park (DIHP)

- a) All horses entering and staying at the Horse Park are required to be entered in the horse show, registered/recorded (with a USEF, FEI, and/or Equine Canada horse ID number**), and have an assigned DIHP 2022/2023 back number.

*** All FEI and Equine Canada registered horses that do not have a USEF horse ID number, will be assigned a new USEF horse ID at no cost. In the future, these horse ID numbers may be used by the owner/trainer if needed.*

- b) Horses that are competing exclusively in FEI classes and are accessing the Horse Park and going directly to FEI stabling are required to follow [FEI entry protocols](#).
- c) Owners/trainers must submit the following documents to the Horse Park **a minimum of 48 hours in advance of arrival for all horses entering the Horse Park:**
- i) **Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI)** signed by a USDA-accredited veterinarian within seven (7) days of arrival. For horses residing within the State of California, the CVI does not require a valid Coggins test performed within the previous 12 months. For horses coming to the State of California, both a CVI and a valid Coggins test, performed within the previous 12 months, are required to enter the state. Health certificates issued in Canada that meet USDA requirements for entering the United States will be accepted for entry into the DIHP. The CVI will be accepted on official state documentation or veterinary letterhead.
 - ii) **USEF health declaration document** signed by the owner/trainer for each horse indicating the horse has not had a fever (defined by greater than 101.5°F) or disease within the 72 hours prior to arrival, has not been exposed to or treated for a fever of unknown origin within the past (28) days, and has tested negative for EHV-1 at least 30 days prior to arrival if it had tested positive for EHV-1 within the previous six (6) months
 - iii) **USEF vaccination declaration document** signed by the owner/trainer for each horse that the horse is compliant with all vaccination requirements of GR 844 (supporting documents required to be in hand). GR 844 requires that at Federation licensed competitions horses, horses more than seven (7) months of age, entering the grounds must be accompanied by documentation of Equine Influenza Virus and Equine Herpes Virus (Rhinopneumonitis) vaccinations within six (6) months prior to entering the stables. No grace period for expired vaccinations will be allowed.
 - iv) When the above documents are submitted, entrants will be required to read and acknowledge the practices and protocols in place at the Horse Park.

Click [here](#) to access the online document submission platform

- d) Owners/trainers must sign up for a scheduled arrival time via www.deserthorsepark.com a **minimum of 48 hours in advance**. Upon arrival, the Driver must present a list of horses on board that matches the documentation submitted to the Horse Park.

Click [here](#) to access the online arrival scheduling application

- e) Documents will be matched to the horses on the van upon arrival. Once documents have been verified, each horse will receive a DIHP 2022/2023 back number and temperature chart to be placed on the stall door with the horse's name, trainer name, and stall number. Each temperature chart must have the DIHP back number recorded on it for each horse.
- f) Horses leaving the property and returning must submit updated documentation for re-entry as follows:
 - i) Horses leaving and returning within each of the three circuits may return with updated declarations but under the original CVI and vaccination records, assuming the vaccinations are valid through the circuit.
 - ii) If the horse is competing as a daily haul-in, then temperature checks must be conducted off grounds and be available upon request throughout the entire competition. In addition, an updated declaration must be completed each week.
 - iii) Horses leaving one circuit and returning for another circuit must update all required documents including the CVI and vaccination declaration.
- g) If documents weren't available for pre-submission, they may be presented at the gate. If documentation is missing or not available, DIHP reserves the right to refuse entry to the Horse Park until such time as the paperwork is presented, or to require the horses to proceed to a pre-isolation tent until documentation is submitted (up to a maximum of 24 hours). After 24 hours, any horses not meeting documentation requirements will be required to leave the Horse Park.

PART II: Requirements for Monitoring Horses at the Horse Park

2. Monitoring Your Horses While at the Horse Park

a. INITIAL MONITORING REQUIREMENTS DURING ARRIVAL AT THE HORSE SHOW

- i. Temperature checks for horses will not be conducted upon arrival at the Horse Park and temperature logs recorded prior to arrival at the horse park are not required to be presented.
- ii. Upon arrival at the designated barn/tent, the DIHP back number and temp chart with all required information should be placed on the stall door for verification. Horses may change stall locations, but the back number and temp chart must be moved as well.
- iii. Once a horse is settled in, and prior to leaving the stall for initial work, a first temperature check should occur. Preferably this initial check should occur within 3 to 6 hours of arrival.
- iv. If an initial temperature check reveals a fever (defined as 101.5°F if the horse is not on a NSAID or 101.1°F if the horse is on a NSAID or other temperature suppressing medication), then the horse should remain in the stall until a subsequent temperature check 8-12 hours later. The show vet and show office must be informed of the initial elevated temperature, and based on other clinical signs, may make the decision to test for EHV-1. If the decision is made to test for EHV-1, the test will be a rapid test done on site, with results available within an hour. If the decision is to wait without a test for EHV-1, and the subsequent temperature check is normal, then the horse is free to work. If the subsequent temperature check is elevated, then the show veterinarian will order a test for EHV-1.

b. DAILY MONITORING OF HORSES DURING THE HORSE SHOW

- i. Twice daily temperature checks, morning and evening, will be required during the horse's stay at the horse park and recorded on the temp chart located on the stall door of each horse. Temperatures should be taken prior to any exercise. **The requirement for temperature monitoring is mandated by USEF for the Desert International Horse Park.**
- ii. Trainers/owners are required to notify the show vet and the show office of a horse with an elevated temperature (defined as 101.5°F if the horse is not on a NSAID, or 101.1°F if the horse is on a NSAID or other temperature suppressing medication). At that point, the horse will be required to stay in its assigned stall. The show vet, in collaboration with show management and the show biosecurity officer, will make the determination on when a horse will be tested for EHV-1. If the horse has no other clinical signs, the horse will likely be required to stay in its stall and a temperature will be taken 8-12 hours later. If the horse remains febrile (exhibiting an elevated temperature as described above), an EHV-1 rapid test will be conducted by the show vet. If the horse develops additional clinical signs, the horse will be tested immediately. Test results will be available within 60 minutes. A confirmatory PCR EHV-1 test will be conducted in the event of a positive rapid test.
- iii. Should a febrile horse (horse with an elevated temperature as per point (ii) above) test negative for EHV-1, the horse will be required to stay in its stall until its fever is less than 101.5°F for 24 hours with no NSAID use. If no other clinical signs arise and the horse remains afebrile, then the horse is free to return to exercise and competition.

- iv. During the next five (5) days, the show vet or horse show biosecurity officer will oversee the temperature check of all horses in the trainer's cohort to ensure no additional fevers are identified.

PART III: Desert International Horse Park Biosecurity Practices

3. Biosecurity Practices During the Horse Show

a. Overall Biosecurity Practices

- i. A nighttime curfew will be in place each evening at 9:00 p.m. Noise must be kept to a minimum in the barn/tent area and unnecessary lights will be turned off.
- ii. Hand sanitizing stations will be maintained by the Horse Park at each barn/tent entry and ringside. All individuals working with horses are encouraged to clean their hands as frequently as possible.
- iii. To the extent possible, tack, rider clothing, horse tools/rags, etc. should be dedicated to a unique horse and not shared across horses.
- iv. Grooms/riders/trainers should make every effort to keep space between horses throughout the property and to avoid sharing rags, buckets, etc. between horses. The horse park will provide clean rags at ringside to be used as needed.
- v. The Horse Park will clean and disinfect common areas, including wash racks, shade structures, hoses, etc.
- vi. Signage will be located throughout the Horse Park detailing best practices and required protocols.

b. Biosecurity Practices Across Trainer Groups

- i. Access to each barn/tent will be limited to individuals with horses in the respective barn/tent.
- ii. Grooms/trainers/riders should take every precaution to avoid contamination across trainer groups. This includes not sharing any tack, cleaning material, brushes, etc., even when it's the "nice" thing to do.
- iii. When crossing trainer groups, grooms/trainers/riders are encouraged to change clothes and practice basic cleaning procedures, such as washing and/or disinfecting hands, boots, etc.

c. Biosecurity Practices at the Ring and/or other Common Areas

- i. Grooms/riders/trainers should make every effort to keep space between horses.
- ii. Extreme caution should be taken by those handling/riding horses to avoid contamination between horses. To the extent possible, tack should not be shared across horses. Riders moving from one horse to another horse should clean their hands with soap and water or disinfectant. Materials used to care for horses, e.g., towels or rags for wiping noses, should not be shared between horses.
- iii. Cleaning/sanitizing stations will be located throughout the competition area for use by grooms/trainers/riders.

d. Biosecurity Practices for Third-Party Providers (including vets, grooms, farriers, braiders, night check, equine spa service, etc.)

- i. All third-party providers operating within the Horse Park are required to disinfect all of their tools and work areas prior to moving between barns/tents/trainer groups.

- ii. Braiders/vets/farriers/night check are required to clean and disinfect their hands, clothing, and shoes between horses.
 - iii. Night check is required to disinfect their shoes between barns/tents and use PPE if working with an individual horse.
 - iv. Equine spa service vendors are required to sanitize spas after each usage, have separate, sanitized handling equipment for each horse, and require spa employees to sanitize hands, clothing, and shoes between horses.
- e. Biosecurity Practices at Vet and Farrier Stations**
- i. Cleaning stations will be set up at the vet clinic and the farrier station.
 - ii. Vets and farriers are required to clean and disinfect (including shoes) between horses.
 - iii. The vet clinic and farrier station will be cleaned and disinfected on a regular basis by the Horse Park. A long-term disinfectant will be used at both locations.
- f. Rules for FEI**
- i. Standard [FEI protocols](#) for FEI competing horses will be followed.
 - ii. During Desert Holiday I and Desert Holiday II, the FEI facility will be under security from November 28 to December 11, 2022. During Desert Circuit, the FEI facility will be under security from January 2 to March 19, 2023.
 - iii. Horses entering the FEI facility from barns/tents at the Horse Park will be required to follow the protocols outlined within this document until they are moved into the FEI facility.
 - iv. Horses entering the FEI facility directly from outside the Horse Park during Desert Holiday and Desert Circuit will follow [FEI entry protocols](#).

PART IV: Procedures in the Event of a Positive EHV-1/EHM Case

4. What Happens If a Horse Tests Positive for EHV-1?

- a. Should a febrile horse test positive for EHV-1, the horse will be moved to isolation. A confirmatory PCR test will be conducted. Isolation protocols will require the horse to have two negative EHV-1 tests separated by seven (7) days. Once that has occurred, the horse will be returned to its stall and is free to return to exercise and competition at the discretion of the horse owner/trainer/horse vet. The trainer/owner of a horse testing positive for EHV-1 may elect to have the horse undergo isolation at home, subject to adherence to recommended guidelines from the show veterinarian.
- b. Additional biosecurity protocols will be implemented at the barn/tent of the positive horse. Temperature checks will be monitored by the show vet and/or the show biosecurity officer. Access to the barn/tent will be limited and enforced by the Horse Park. Foot baths and additional stall disinfectant applications will be in place at the direction of the Horse Park. These will remain in place for seven (7) days assuming no additional febrile horses have been identified. Horses will be free to exercise and compete during this period.
- c. Should any additional horses from the trainer's cohort become febrile, they will be tested for EHV-1 at their stall. If the horses test negative, the horses with an elevated temperature will be required to stay in their stall until a subsequent negative test occurs

48 hours later. If the additional horses test negative subsequently and have no clinical signs, they will be free to exercise and compete.

- d. Should a second horse test positive for EHV-1 in the cohort, the cohort will be under Horse Park quarantine until seven (days) after the positive horses have cleared isolation and no other horses in the cohort are febrile or are showing clinical signs. All horses in the cohort will be required to stay in their stall. Positive horses will be relocated to isolation. Horses will be monitored until no additional fevers have been identified and the positive EHV-1 horses have been cleared. During this time, additional monitoring of the barn/tent will be conducted by the Horse Park. The horse park quarantine procedures will include fencing around the barn/tent, security, and limited access. Exercise arrangements will be made by the Horse Park.

5. What Happens if We Have a Case of EHM?

- a. Should a febrile horse (or EHV-1 positive horse) demonstrate additional clinical signs consistent with EHM, the horse will immediately be moved to a pre-isolation tent and the CDFA will be notified. The horse will be subjected to a rapid EHV-1 test. Should the horse test negative, the horse will remain in pre-isolation until a confirmatory test has occurred 48 hours later, by the CDFA lab.
- b. During this time, the barn/tent will be placed under precautionary biosecurity protocols, including foot baths, show vet monitored temperature checks, and further limited access.
- c. In the event the horse tests positive for EHV-1, the horse will be tested immediately by the CDFA for EHM. Should the horse test positive for EHM, the CDFA will assume responsibility for quarantine and other protocols until the Horse Park is cleared.

Working Together to Keep Horses Safe

6. DIHP – Our Part

- a. The DIHP has hired a biosecurity officer who is also a licensed veterinarian. Importantly, our biosecurity officer is not on the grounds to treat horses. The show vet, East-West Equine Sports Medicine, is responsible, along with your own vet, to treat your horses. The biosecurity officer will guide the implementation of these protocols, obtain feedback, assist when needed, and ensure all involved, from Horse Park staff to participants, are doing what is necessary on a daily basis to ensure the health and well-being of the horses.
- b. We'll ensure the Horse Park is regularly cleaned and sanitized, especially in high-traffic areas. Importantly, all stalls prior to horses' arrival this season have been disinfected and tested. You can be assured they are clean. Whenever the occupant of a stall changes, we'll repeat the process of disinfecting. With the help of Merck Animal Health, we'll be testing a variety of disinfecting protocols to figure out long-term what works best.
- c. We'll make sure we are ready in case a horse does get sick with EHV-1. We learned a lot about the best practices for treating horses and know that our veterinary partners at

East-West Sports Medicine are well-trained and prepared. We'll support them and make sure all of the supplies and medicine needed are on the grounds for immediate use.

- d. We'll overcommunicate. We learned that communication is key to making sure everyone acts as a community. DIHP will report all positive cases of EHV-1 and EHM to USEF and CDFA. All communication to participants at DIHP will be provided to both CDFA and USEF in advance of distribution.
- e. Any decision to limit, postpone, or cancel a competition, and subsequent decisions to resume competition, will be made in consultation with USEF and CDFA.

7. Participants – Your Part

- a. If you have a sick horse, a horse with an elevated temperature, or a horse you suspect may be sick, **do not** bring it to the Horse Park until things are resolved. If your horse becomes sick while at the Horse Park, immediately alert the show vet or biosecurity officer and competition management. The single most important thing that can be done is to isolate sick horses from others quickly and care for them appropriately. It is good for the horse and good for all the other horses. The Horse Park staff are here to assist you.
- b. While you are here at the Horse Park, practice common sense and good hygiene protocols.