



**DESERT INTERNATIONAL HORSE PARK
EQUINE BIOSECURITY PROTOCOLS
2023/2024 SEASON**

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

Effective October 25, 2023

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Introduction

Horse Health. Balanced. Science-Based. Sensible.

Four years ago, when we purchased the horse park, I must admit that the words biosecurity never really entered my mind. Now it doesn't seem like a day passes when the challenges of viruses are not impacting our sport on the West Coast.

With the start of a new season at the Desert International Horse Park, we are once again facing the challenge of keeping our horses healthy and our sport prospering. We have learned a lot. We have a closer set of relationships with the folks who we need to – USEF, CDFA, UC Davis. The principles that guided us before the start of last season are ever so important in guiding how we act. Based on new guidance from our key constituencies, we have updated our protocols. We are as prepared as possible.

And yet a few things are ever-present in our thinking.

We, together, must embrace biosecurity. It always comes back to the basics, and just doing them more diligently. Trying to avoid co-mingling of equipment, trying to wash hands more frequently. Being aware when our horses seem under the weather. Taking temps twice a day. Nothing fancy. But it is ever so important.

Horses will get sick. The single most important tool we have is to find sick horses and separate them as rapidly as possible. Horses get better care. Risk is mitigated. So please, when your horse is sick, raise your hand.

We must learn to live with sick horses. Done correctly, biosecurity protocols help us keep the broader horse population healthy and thus, let the show continue, something everyone wants to have happen. We must learn to live with horses getting sick and expect, with a job well done, we can continue to show without risk to the broader population.

The following pages outline our latest biosecurity protocols. They include different requirements for entering and returning to the horse park throughout the season. They deal explicitly with EHV-1/EHM and VSV. USEF has very specific requirements they have placed on show managers at this point. The good news is we are all getting used to the requirements and comfortable with how to comply.

Again, 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 all the horses at the show. If you have questions, or if something doesn't seem right, please reach out. We are here to help and work with you.

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 2023/2024 back number.
- 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) **All 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) **Official State Issued or Approved Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI)** signed by a USDA-accredited veterinarian within five (5) 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 entering 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. **Every CVI must include the following two statements:**
 - (1) **“I have examined the animal(s) represented on this certificate of veterinary inspection and have found no clinical signs of vesicular stomatitis and they have not originated from a premises under quarantine for vesicular stomatitis.”**
 - (2) **“I declare that the horse listed below is not demonstrating any signs of EHV-1, has not had any known exposure to EHV-1 in the past 21 days, and is not coming from a property with known EHV-1 positive cases.”**
 - ii) **Trainer/owner 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 USEF GR 844 (supporting documents required to be in hand). GR 844 requires that at Federation licensed competitions 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. Depending on risk, as determined by DIHP, USEF and CDFA, all arriving horses may receive a visual inspection for signs of vesicular lesions (VSV) or other infectious diseases.

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

- e) Documents will be matched to the horses on the van upon arrival. Temperature charts will be provided and should be placed on each stall door upon arrival. The trainer/owner is responsible for ensuring the horse's name and back number are added to each temperature chart. The temperature charts will be inspected by DIHP personnel on a regular basis.
- f) **Horses leaving the property and returning must submit updated documentation for re-entry as follows:**
- i) Horses leaving and returning within five (5) days may return with updated declarations but under the original CVI and vaccination records, assuming the vaccinations are valid through the circuit. An additional inspection of the horse will occur upon entry.
 - ii) **If the horse is competing as a daily haul-in**, temperature checks must be conducted off grounds and be available upon request throughout the entire competition. In addition, an updated declaration and CVI must be completed each week. Horses may be inspected on a daily basis.
 - 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, but this can result in a delay for inspection and unloading. If documentation is missing or not available, DIHP reserves the right to refuse entry to the Horse Park or to require the horses to proceed to a pre-isolation tent until such time as the completed 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 temperature chart with all required information should be placed on the stall door for verification. Horses may change stall locations, but the temperature 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 DIHP should be notified, and 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 after either the first or the second temperature check. DIHP reserves the right to test any horse that has a fever and/or clinical signs for EHV-1 or other infectious diseases.**

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 must be recorded on the temp chart located on the stall door of each horse. Temperatures should be taken prior to any exercise. **Temperature monitoring is required for Desert International Horse Park. Repeated violations of this policy will be subject to further action by DIHP management and may include being asked to leave the 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). If a horse has an elevated temperature, it will be required to stay in its assigned stall. 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. DIHP reserves the right to test any horse that has a fever and/or clinical signs for EHV-1.
- iii. Should a febrile horse, 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 for 24 hours, 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 in a febrile horse’s cohort.

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.
- 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.
- vii. DIHP will also perform vector control throughout the barns, tents, and other populated areas.

b. Biosecurity Practices Across Trainer Groups

- i. Access to each barn/tent should 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 must be followed, in addition to adherence to DIHP protocols.

PART IV: Procedures in the Event of a Positive EHV-1/EHM Horse(s)

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

- a. Should a febrile horse test positive on a rapid test for EHV-1, the horse will be moved to an isolation barn. A confirmatory PCR test will be conducted. The horse will be in isolation while waiting for the PCR test results.
- b. To be released from isolation, a horse will be required 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.
- c. Additional biosecurity protocols will be implemented for the cohort (barn/tent) of the positive horse as necessary. Temperature checks will be monitored by the show vet and/or the show biosecurity officer for five (5) days or at the discretion of the biosecurity officer. Access to the cohort (barn/tent) may be limited and enforced by the Horse Park. Foot baths and additional stall disinfectant applications may be in place at the discretion of the Horse Park. If necessary, these precautions may remain in place for seven (7) days assuming no additional febrile horses have been identified. Asymptomatic horses within the cohort will be free to exercise and compete during this period.
- d. Should any additional horses from the cohort become febrile, they will be tested for EHV-1 at their stall via a rapid test. 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 second test is negative and the febrile horse has no abnormal clinical signs, they will be free to exercise and compete.
- e. Should a second horse in a cohort test positive for EHV-1, the entire 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 stalls. Positive horses will be relocated to isolation. Horses will be monitored until no additional fevers have been identified and all of the positive EHV-1 horses from that cohort 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 may be limited and will be made at the discretion of the Horse Park.

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

- a. A febrile horse (or EHV-1 positive horse) or demonstrate additional clinical signs consistent with EHM, the horse will immediately be moved to an 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 isolation until a confirmatory PCR 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.

6. What Happens if a Horse Shows Signs of Vesicular Stomatitis (VS)?

- a. The affected horse will be immediately moved to our pre-isolation area and all cohorts will be examined for similar lesions. The CDFA and USEF will be notified, and the affected horse will be tested for VSV. All further actions taken by DIHP will be determined upon consultation with the CDFA and USEF.

Part V: Working Together to Keep Horses Safe

7. DIHP – Our Part

- a. The DIHP has hired a biosecurity officer who is 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 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 all horses present on Horse Park grounds.
- b. We will ensure the Horse Park is regularly cleaned and sanitized--especially in high-traffic areas. Importantly, all stalls have been disinfected and tested prior to horse arrival. Whenever the occupant of a stall changes, we will repeat the process of disinfecting. You can be assured they are clean as we can make them. If you find something that is not clean or have concerns, please let us know.

- c. We will implement rigorous vector management control to reduce the risk presented by flies, gnats, etc.
- d. We will 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.
- e. DIHP will report all horses entering isolation to the USEF as is required. All positive cases of EHV-1 to USEF, and all cases of EHM to USEF and CDFA.
- f. Any decision to limit, postpone, or cancel a competition, and subsequent decisions to resume competition, will be made in consultation with USEF and CDFA.

8. 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.