



**DESERT INTERNATIONAL HORSE PARK**  
**EQUINE BIOSECURITY PROTOCOLS**  
**2025/2026 SEASON**

**Requirements and Best Practices for Accessing and Competing  
at the Desert International Horse Park  
(Developed and Approved in Conjunction with USEF)**

**Effective January 2, 2026**

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## Key Contacts

Subject	Contact	Email	Phone
DIHP General Management	Matt Morrissey	<a href="mailto:matt@deserthorsepark.com">matt@deserthorsepark.com</a>	(941) 915-3457
Technical Coordinator	Skyler Brittner	<a href="mailto:skyler@deserthorsepark.com">skyler@deserthorsepark.com</a>	(602) 810-0114
DIHP Biosecurity Officer	Dr. David Runk	<a href="mailto:david@deserthorsepark.com">david@deserthorsepark.com</a>	(530) 902-0750
Show Office Manager	Ashley Keeler	<a href="mailto:ashley@deserthorsepark.com">ashley@deserthorsepark.com</a>	
DIHP Show Office			(442) 200-4919
Competition Veterinarian	East-West Equine Sports Medicine	<a href="mailto:office@eastwestequinevet.com">office@eastwestequinevet.com</a>	(859) 940-4478
USEF Equine Health and Veterinary Department	Dr. Katie Flynn	<a href="mailto:kflynn@usef.org">kflynn@usef.org</a>	(859) 225-6991

## 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 must be entered in the horse show, registered/recorded (with a USEF, FEI, and/or Equine Canada horse ID number), and have an assigned DIHP 2025/2026 back number.**
- b) Horses competing exclusively in FEI classes and accessing the Horse Park must go directly to FEI stabling and follow FEI entry protocols.
- c) **All CALIFORNIA owners/trainers must submit the following documents to enter the Horse Park via the EquiTrace EventPass links on our DIHP website's biosecurity page:**
  - i) **Equine health declaration** is required to be completed by the owner/trainer, within 7 days of horse(s) arrival at DIHP within the EquiTrace platform, stating each horse has not had a fever (defined by greater than 101.5°F) or clinical signs of disease within the 72 hours before arrival and has not been exposed to or treated for a fever of unknown origin within the past 30 days. Any horse tested for EHV-1 in the last 30 days must have tested negative for EHV-1 twice in the previous 30 days by an approved, accredited laboratory.
  - ii) **No USDA-accredited CVIs are required for horses originating/residing in the State of California to enter Desert International Horse Park at this time. Coggins tests are not required for California horses, but they are encouraged as part of your horse's regular health management program.**
  - iii) **USEF vaccination declaration** signed by the owner/trainer for each horse stating 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 before entering the stables. **No grace period will be allowed for expired vaccination guidelines. If your horse's Rhino/Flu vaccinations expire while your horse is at DIHP, we ask that you update their vaccinations on site with the East-West Veterinary group or a private veterinarian. Please submit documentation to support their updated vaccination status to: [biosecurity@deserthorsepark.com](mailto:biosecurity@deserthorsepark.com)**
  - iv) **After completing your EquiTrace EventPass document uploads, completing an arrival, and signing the Equine Declaration of Health with EventPass, you will be issued a QR code. This QR code will be scanned upon arrival at DIHP. This code must be shared with any drivers bringing horses into the showgrounds. Depending on the risk, as determined by DIHP, USEF, and CDFA, all arriving horses may receive a visual inspection for signs of infectious diseases. Only healthy horses will be permitted entry to DIHP.**

Click [here](#) to access our DIHP Biosecurity website.

d) **All Out-of-State/non-California and International horses must submit the following documents to enter the Horse Park via the EquiTrace EventPass links on our DIHP website's biosecurity page:**

i) **Official State Issued or Approved International Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI)** with an inspection date, by an accredited veterinarian, within 14 days of arrival for out-of-state and international horses. For horses entering from outside the State of California, 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 statement:**

(1) **"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 30 days, and is not coming from a property with known EHV-1 positive cases."**

ii) **Equine health declaration** is required to be completed by the owner/trainer, within 7 days of horse(s) arrival at DIHP within the EquiTrace platform, within 7 days of horse(s) arrival at DIHP, stating each horse indicating has not had a fever (defined by greater than 101.5°F) or clinical signs of disease within the 72 hours before arrival and has not been exposed to or treated for a fever of unknown origin within the past 30 days. Any horse tested for EHV-1 in the last 30 days has tested negative for EHV-1 twice in the previous 30 days by an approved, accredited laboratory.

iii) **USEF vaccination declaration** signed by the owner/trainer for each horse stating 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 before entering the stables. **No grace period will be allowed for expired vaccination guidelines. If your horse's Rhino/Flu vaccinations expire while your horse is at DIHP, we ask that you update their vaccinations on site with the East-West Veterinary group or a private veterinarian. Please submit documentation to support their updated vaccination to: [biosecurity@deserthorsepark.com](mailto:biosecurity@deserthorsepark.com)**

e) **After completing your EquiTrace EventPass document uploads, completing an arrival, and signing the Equine Declaration of Health with EventPass, you will be issued a QR code. This QR code will be scanned upon arrival at DIHP. This code must be shared with any drivers bringing horses into the showgrounds. Depending on the risk, as determined by DIHP, USEF, and CDFA, all arriving horses may receive a visual inspection for signs of infectious diseases. Only healthy horses will be permitted entry to DIHP.**

Click [here](#) to access our DIHP Biosecurity website.

f) **Horses leaving the property and returning must complete updated arrival and health declaration statements via the EquiTrace EventPass system for re-entry.**

i) **If the horse competes as a daily haul-in, twice-daily temperature checks must be conducted and recorded off-site, and their temperature logs must be available upon request throughout the competition. Horses may be inspected daily before entry or while on-site at DIHP. All daily haul-in horses are required to have a temporary stall on site. In the interest of**

- horse safety and welfare. Haul-in horses are no longer allowed to be left alone in our parking lots or remain on trailers during their stay at DIHP.
- ii) Horses leaving one circuit week and returning for another circuit week must complete a new arrival submission and document submission, including a new declaration of health and vaccination forms.
  - g) If documents aren't available for pre-submission, they may be presented at the gate, which can delay inspection and unloading. If documentation is missing or unavailable, DIHP reserves the right to refuse entry to the Horse Park or to require the horses to proceed to a designated area until the completed documentation is submitted -- up to a maximum of 24 hours. After 24 hours, any horses not meeting documentation requirements must 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 REQUESTED DURING ARRIVAL AT THE HORSE SHOW

- i. Temperature checks for horses will not be conducted upon arrival at the front gate of the Horse Park. Additionally, 3-day temperature logs are not required to be presented at the front gate. However, in the event of an elevated disease risk, management may require temperature checks upon entry and the maintenance of temperature logs to ensure compliance with these measures.
- ii. Once a horse is stabled and at rest, a first temperature check should occur before leaving the stall for initial work. This initial check should occur within 3 to 6 hours of arrival.
- iii. 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), the show veterinarian and biosecurity officer should be notified immediately. The horse must remain in the stall until the show veterinarian or the biosecurity officer takes a subsequent temperature.
- iv. The show veterinarian and biosecurity officer must be notified of the initial elevated temperature in accordance with the USEF mandatory fever reporting rule, effective December 1, 2024. Non-compliance with this USEF rule would be a violation and may result in sanctions being issued.
  - 1. DIHP reserves the right to isolate and/or test any horse with a fever and/or clinical signs for EHV-1 or any other infectious diseases at the owner's expense. Individuals who fail to isolate and or test when requested may be required to leave the event grounds.
  - 2. DIHP may require a test for EHV-1 after the first or second temperature check, based on the horse's clinical presentation and epidemiologic risk assessment.

#### b. DAILY MONITORING OF HORSES DURING THE HORSE SHOW

- i. Twice daily temperature checks, morning and evening, are requested during the horse's stay at the horse park.

- ii. Trainers/owners are required by the USEF mandatory reporting rule to immediately notify the show vet and the show office of a horse with an elevated temperature per a new mandatory USEF rule (defined as 101.5°F if the horse is not on an NSAID, or 101.0°F if the horse is on an NSAID or other temperature-suppressing medication). If a horse has an elevated temperature, it must stay in its assigned stall. If the horse has no other clinical signs, it may be allowed to remain in its stall, and a temperature will be taken 1-2 hours later. If the horse remains febrile (exhibiting an elevated temperature as described above) or shows signs of an infectious disease, the show veterinarian or biosecurity officer must be notified again.
- iii. DIHP reserves the right to require isolation, within a timely manner (less than 2 hrs), and to require testing of any horse with a fever and/or clinical signs for EHV-1 and other infectious diseases.
- iv. At any time, if the DIHP show veterinarian, the biosecurity veterinarian, and/or competition management deems that a febrile horse may pose an infectious disease risk, the horse shall be moved to isolation within two hours of the request by DIHP to protect the health of the horse and the general health of the equine population on the competition grounds.
- v. If the trainer and/or owner refuses to send the horse to DIHP isolation, the horse and its cohorts may be asked to leave the competition grounds immediately by DIHP management. Failure to abide by these rules will be cause for referral to USEF for enforcement.
- vi. Horses in isolation will be released from isolation based on a collective decision of the DIHP show management, the biosecurity veterinarian, the East-West Veterinary Group, and USEF. Decisions will be based on the horses' diagnostic test results, the absence of abnormal clinical signs, and epidemiologic risk assessment.
- vii. During the next seven (7) 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 develop. If additional horses are febrile or displaying clinical signs of infectious disease, these horses may be required to report to the isolation area or may request permission to leave the premises for isolation.

## 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. The Horse Park will maintain hand sanitizing stations at each barn/tent entry as well as ringside. All individuals working with horses are encouraged to clean their hands as frequently as possible.
  - iii. To the best extent possible, tack, rider clothing, horse tools/rags, etc., should be dedicated to a unique horse and not shared across horses.
  - iv. Grooms, riders, and trainers should maintain a safe distance between horses throughout the property and avoid sharing items such as rags and buckets between horses.

- v. The Horse Park will regularly clean and disinfect common areas, including wash racks, shade structures, and hoses.
  - 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 Cohorts**
- i. Access to each barn/tent should be limited to individuals with horses in the respective barn/tent.
  - ii. Grooms, trainers, and 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 their hands, boots, and other equipment.
- c. Biosecurity Practices at the Ring and/or Other Common Areas**
- i. Grooms/riders/trainers should keep space between horses.
  - ii. Extreme caution should be taken by those handling/riding horses to avoid contamination between horses. Tack should not be shared across horses. Riders transitioning from one horse to another should wash their hands with soap and water or use a 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 grooms/trainers/riders to use.
- d. Biosecurity Practices for Third-Party Providers (including vets, grooms, farriers, braiders, night check, equine spa service, horse exerciser, etc.)**
- i. All third-party providers operating within the Horse Park are required to disinfect their tools and work areas before moving between barns, tents, and trainer groups.
  - ii. Braiders, vets, farriers, and night checkers are required to clean and disinfect their hands and shoes between horses.
  - iii. Night check is requested to disinfect their shoes between barns/tents and use PPE if working with an individual horse.
  - iv. Equine spa service vendors must sanitize spas after each usage, have separate handling equipment for each horse, and require spa employees to sanitize their hands, clothing, and shoes between horses.
  - v. The IDA horse walker will be available for use by trainers/horses on the property. Only horses from the same barn may use the horse walker at the same time. IDA is required to disinfect the horse walker when subsequent horses are from a different barn.
  - vi. All third-party providers shall maintain a list of horses worked on, which must be provided to management or state officials upon request in the event of an infectious disease incursion.
- e. Biosecurity Practices at Vet and Farrier Stations**
- i. Cleaning stations will be set up at the veterinary clinic and the farrier station.
  - ii. Vets and farriers are required to clean and disinfect (including shoes) between horses.
  - iii. The Horse Park will regularly clean and disinfect the vet clinic and farrier station using a long-term disinfectant.



- 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 when a Horse Enters Isolation or Tests Positive for EHV-1

### 4. What Happens when a Horse Enters Isolation?

- a. **At a minimum, any horse entering the DIHP onsite isolation area must remain in isolation until it has been afebrile for 72 hours without antipyretic medications and has had two validated/confirmed negative EHV-1 tests.**
  - i. **If the horse becomes febrile again, it will remain isolated until it has meet the 72-hour afebrile rule and the two validated/confirmed test rule has been satisfied.**
  - ii. **Once this has occurred, the horse will be returned to its stall and is free to resume exercise and competition at the discretion of the horse owner/trainer/veterinarian.**
  - iii. **No horse in isolation will be permitted to compete. An exercise plan for an isolated horse will be set forth by the show veterinarian and/or biosecurity veterinarian.**
  - iv. **Horses in isolation will be released from isolation based on a collective decision of the DIHP show management, the biosecurity veterinarian, the East-West Veterinary Group, and USEF. Decisions will be based on the horses' diagnostic test results, the absence of abnormal clinical signs, and epidemiologic risk assessment.**

### 5. What Happens when a Horse Tests Positive for EHV-1?

- a. **If a horse tests positive for EHV-1 on a Fluxergy rapid test, it may/will be moved to an off-site isolation barn (non-DIHP property) within 2 hours or less. The off-site isolation barn will be used to house all horses that test positive for EHV-1. The DIHP biosecurity officer will maintain the off-site facility, and the horse(s) will remain under the veterinary care of the show veterinarian. This facility must be maintained in accordance with the DIHP biosecurity protocols and will be under USEF guidance at all times.** A confirmatory PCR test will be conducted, and the horse will remain in the off-site isolation while awaiting these results. Additional testing for EHV-1 and a detailed treatment plan will be provided based on a collective decision of DIHP management, the biosecurity veterinarian, USEF, and the East-West Veterinary Group.
- b. **At a minimum, an EHV-1-positive horse must remain in isolation until it has been afebrile for 72 hours without the use of antipyretic medications and has had two consecutive, validated, and confirmed negative tests for EHV-1.**
  - i. **If the horse becomes febrile again, it will remain isolated until it has reached the 72-hour afebrile rule and the two validated/confirmed test rule has been satisfied.**

- ii. **Once this has occurred, the horse will be returned to its stall and is free to resume exercise and competition at the discretion of the horse owner/trainer/veterinarian.**
- c. **The trainer/owner of a horse testing positive for EHV-1 may elect to have the horse undergo isolation at a home facility, subject to adherence to recommended guidelines from the show veterinarian, the DIHP biosecurity officer, and USEF.**
- d. **Based on discussions with the biosecurity officer and the East-West Veterinary group, Horses testing positive for EHV-1 will be encouraged to begin antiviral treatment and zinc/lysine supplementation to reduce their risk of developing EHM.**
- e. Additional biosecurity protocols will be implemented for the cohort (barn/tent) of the EHV-1 positive horse. Twice-daily temperature logs will be monitored by the show veterinarian and/or the show biosecurity officer for a period of seven (7) days. Access to the cohort (barn/tent) may be limited and enforced by the Horse Park. Foot baths and additional stall disinfectant applications may be used at the discretion of the Horse Park. These precautions may remain in place for up to seven (7) days, assuming no additional febrile horses are identified.
- f. **Asymptomatic horses within the cohort may be free to exercise and compete during this period as long as their temperatures remain less than 101°F before they leave their stalls.** Based on epidemiologic risk assessment, additional restrictions and testing may be required for the cohort population.
- g. Should additional horses from the cohort become febrile, they will be tested for EHV-1 at their stalls, and a Fluxergy rapid test will be performed. If the horses test negative, those with an elevated temperature may be required to report to isolation, based on a collective decision by DIHP management, the biosecurity officer, USEF, and the East-West Veterinary Group.
- h. Should a second horse in a cohort test positive for EHV-1, the entire cohort will be under **DIHP Horse Park-imposed restrictions** for at least seven days or until no other horses in the cohort are febrile or showing clinical signs of disease. All EHV-1 positive horse(s) will be cleared and relocated to a designated off-site isolation area. All horses in the cohort will be required to stay in their stalls and adhere to a restricted exercise plan. Their ability to compete will be determined by a collective decision made by DIHP management and their associated veterinarians in conjunction with USEF.
- i. Any competition barn's isolation procedures may include fencing around the barn/tent, security personnel, and limited access, as determined through consultation with the East-West Veterinary group, the DIHP biosecurity officer, and in conjunction with USEF.

## **6. What Happens if We Have a Case of EHM?**

- a. If a febrile horse (or one positive for EHV-1) exhibits additional clinical signs consistent with EHM, the horse will be immediately moved to an off-site isolation area, and the USEF and CDFA will be notified. The horse will undergo a rapid EHV-1 test. Should the horse test negative, it will remain in an off-site isolation area until a confirmatory PCR test is performed 48 hours later by the CDFA lab.
- b. During this time, the show barn/tent will be placed under precautionary biosecurity protocols, including foot baths, vet-monitored temperature checks, and further limited access.

- c. If the neurologic horse tests positive for EHV-1, the CDFA will assume responsibility for any quarantine and protocols until the Horse Park is officially released from state quarantine and restrictions.

## **7. What Happens if a Horse Shows Signs of Vesicular Stomatitis (VS) or Screwworm Disease?**

- a. Screwworm and Vesicular Stomatitis are regulatory diseases and, as such, have required protocols designated by state and federal animal health officials.
- b. Any horse showing compatible clinical signs for screwworm or Vesicular Stomatitis will be immediately moved to an 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 or treated for screwworm infestation. All further actions taken by DIHP will be determined upon consultation with the CDFA and USEF.

## **Part V: Working Together to Keep Horses Safe**

### **8. 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 vet, for treating your horses. The biosecurity officer will guide the implementation of protocols, obtain feedback, and provide assistance when needed, ensuring that all individuals, from Horse Park staff to participants, adhere to the necessary daily measures to maintain the health and well-being of all horses on Horse Park grounds.
- b. We will ensure the Horse Park is regularly cleaned and sanitized, especially in high-traffic areas. Whenever the occupant of a stall changes, we will repeat the disinfecting process. You can be assured they are as clean as we can make them. Please let us know if you find something that is not clean or if you have concerns.
- c. We will implement rigorous vector management controls to mitigate the risks posed by flies, gnats, and other pests.
- d. We will ensure we are prepared if a horse contracts EHV-1. We have learned a great deal about best practices for treating horses and are confident that our veterinary partners at East-West Sports Medicine are well-trained and prepared. We'll support them and ensure that all the supplies and medicine needed are on the grounds for immediate use.
- e. DIHP will report all horses entering isolation to the USEF as required. All EHV-1 positive cases will be reported to USEF, and all instances of EHM will be reported to both USEF and CDFA.
- f. DIHP will ONLY provide general press releases/communications regarding EHV-1/infectious diseases onsite if:
  - 1. There is evidence of disease agent spread to one or more trainer cohorts on the venue grounds. (A single isolated case of an infectious disease will not generate a press release.)

2. A partial/entire show barn on the DIHP premises has been quarantined for a contagious disease. No notification will be made if all affected horses leave the DIHP premises promptly.

3. Epidemiologic investigation deems a high risk of disease transmission onsite or a high risk of disease incursion due to the presence of the disease agent in the geographic area.

- g. Any decision to limit, postpone, or cancel a competition, as well as subsequent decisions to resume competition, will be made in consultation with the USEF and CDFA.

## **9. Participants – Your Part**

- a. Do not bring sick horses or horses with a fever or clinical signs of illness within the last 7 days to DIHP until the issue is resolved.
- b. Please take your horse's temperatures twice daily. If your horse becomes ill at the Horse Park, please immediately notify the show veterinarian, biosecurity officer, and competition management, as required by USEF. The single most important thing that can be done is to isolate sick horses as soon as possible and provide them with appropriate care. It is good for the horse and good for all the other horses as well. The Horse Park staff are here to assist you.
- c. While at the Horse Park, practice common sense and good hygiene protocols, as well as follow DIHP biosecurity protocols, which are in place to ensure the health and welfare of all horses on the premises.