

DESERT INTERNATIONAL HORSE PARK

EQUINE BIOSECURITY PROTOCOLS



2026 – 2027 SEASON

Requirements and Best Practices for Accessing and Competing at the Desert International Horse Park
Effective October 1, 2026

(Developed and Approved in Conjunction with USEF)

BIOSECURITY AT A GLANCE

Quick reference only. See the sections that follow for complete requirements and procedures.

BEFORE ARRIVAL	Identify the applicable pathway: California, out-of-state/international, Texas, Colorado, FEI, daily haul-in, or returning horse.
EVENTPASS	Complete the applicable EquiTrace EventPass submissions: document uploads, arrival, health declaration, and QR-code process.
ARRIVAL	Driver must have the EventPass QR code. Follow applicable DIHP inspection requirements. Texas, New Mexico, and Colorado horses have additional inspection requirements. See Sections 1.4 and 1.5.
AFTER STABLING	Take the first resting temperature within 3–6 hours of arrival, before initial work.
DURING THE SHOW	Follow the monitoring requirements and biosecurity practices outlined in Parts II and III.
FEVER / ILLNESS	Keep the horse in its assigned stall and follow the notification, recheck, testing, and isolation procedures in Parts II and IV.

KEY CONTACTS

SUBJECT	CONTACT	EMAIL	PHONE
DIHP General Management	Matt Morrissey	matt@deserthorsepark.com	(941) 915-3457
Technical Coordinator	Skyler Brittner	skyler@deserthorsepark.com	(602) 810-0114
DIHP Biosecurity Officer	Dr. David Runk	david@deserthorsepark.com	(530) 902-0750
Show Office Manager	Ashley Keeler	ashley@deserthorsepark.com	(303) 249-7075
DIHP Show Office			(442) 200-4919
Competition Veterinarian	East-West Equine Sports Medicine	office@eastwestequinevet.com	(859) 940-4478
USEF Equine Health and Veterinary Department	Dr. Katie Flynn	kflynn@usef.org	(859) 225-6991

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PART I — ACCESSING THE DESERT INTERNATIONAL HORSE PARK

1.1 Entering DIHP

- 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 2026/2027 back number.
- Horses competing exclusively in FEI classes and accessing the Horse Park must go directly to FEI stabling and follow FEI entry protocols.

EVENTPASS & ARRIVAL AT DIHP

After you complete your EquiTrace EventPass document uploads, provide an arrival, and sign the Equine Declaration of Health with EquiTrace EventPass, you will be issued a QR code. DIHP will scan this QR code upon arrival. Share this code 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. [Click here to access our DIHP Biosecurity website.](#)

1.2 California Horses

- An equine health declaration is required to be completed by the owner/trainer within 7 days of horse(s) arrival at DIHP within the EquiTrace EventPass platform, stating that each horse has not had a fever (defined as 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.
- 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.
- Proof of vaccination for each horse stating that the horse is compliant with all vaccination requirements of USEF GR 844/845. GR 844/845 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 (both EHV1 and EHV4 - 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 Equine Sports Medicine or a private veterinarian. Please submit documentation to support their updated vaccination status to: biosecurity@deserthorsepark.com
- After completing your EquiTrace EventPass document uploads, completing an arrival, and signing the Equine Declaration of Health with EquiTrace 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.

UPLOAD all health certificates, proof of vaccination documents, and equine health declarations in the EquiTrace EventPass system via the links on our website. Failure to complete this process online will prevent you from receiving your show number in the horse show office and may delay placement of horses in their assigned stalls. Horses may be temporarily placed in isolation stabling until requirements are met.

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

1.3 Out-of-State & International Horses

REQUIRED FOR ALL OUT-OF-STATE & INTERNATIONAL HORSES

- An 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.
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- An equine health declaration is required to be completed by the owner/trainer within 7 days of horse(s) arrival at DIHP within the EquiTrace EventPass platform, stating each horse has not had a fever (defined as 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.
 - Proof of vaccination for each horse stating the horse is compliant with all vaccination requirements of USEF GR 844/845. GR 844/845 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 (both EHV1 and EHV4 - 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 Equine Sports Medicine or a private veterinarian. Please submit documentation to support their updated vaccinations to:
biosecurity@deserthorsepark.com

We encourage all out-of-state trainers, owners, and transporters to research the most current CA import requirements on the CDFA websites below:

- [Animal Health Entry Requirements](#)
- [CDFA - AHFSS - Entry Requirements & Information About Livestock & Pet Movement](#)

CVI REQUIREMENTS

Every CVI must include the following statement:

"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."

TEXAS, NEW MEXICO, & COLORADO ARRIVALS

Horses originating from Texas, New Mexico, or Colorado have additional state-specific CVI and inspection requirements. See Sections 1.4 and 1.5.

All horses originating from Texas, New Mexico, or Colorado must be inspected at the DIHP-designated inspection area BEFORE entering their assigned stabling. Only healthy horses will be permitted entry to DIHP. Texas and New Mexico horses will be housed together to reduce the risk of NWSW. Staff will inspect them routinely over the first 10 days after arrival. After the 10-day inspection period, horses will be allowed to be stabled elsewhere within the DIHP property.

Plan to arrive during normal daylight business hours. Arrival outside these hours requires prior approval from Dr. Runk at 530-902-0750.

1.4 Texas and New Mexico Horses

Texas and New Mexico horses must meet all requirements in Section 1.3, plus the following:

- DIHP policy requires an official state-issued Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI) with a pre-movement veterinary inspection for New World Screwworm (NWSW) 7 days prior to arrival in California, regardless of whether the horse originates from an area with confirmed NWSW cases. If current CDFA requirements are more stringent than DIHP policy, the CDFA requirements apply.
- A NWSW statement on the CVI that meets current California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) requirements
- A California import permit for all horses coming from Texas.

The latest CDFA information available, at the time of publishing, for transporting animals from Texas, including horses and companion animals, [can be found here](#).

1.5 Colorado Horses

While Colorado is listed as a VS-affected state, Colorado horses must meet all requirements in Section 1.3, plus the following:

- DIHP policy requires an official state-issued Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI) with a pre-movement veterinary inspection for Vesicular Stomatitis (VS) 7 days prior to arrival in California, regardless of whether the horse originates from an area with confirmed VS cases. If current CDFA requirements are more stringent than DIHP policy, the CDFA requirements apply.
- A VS statement on the CVI that meets current California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) requirements
- No California import permit is currently required for horses coming from the State of Colorado

1.6 Horses Leaving and Returning

- Horses leaving the property and returning must complete updated arrival and health declaration statements via the EquiTrace EventPass system for re-entry.
- 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. For horse safety and welfare, haul-in horses may no longer be left alone in our parking lots or remain on trailers during their stay at DIHP.

- Horses leaving one circuit week and returning for another circuit week must complete a new arrival submission and potential document submission via the EquiTrace EventPass system as well as a new declaration of health.

PART II — MONITORING HORSES AT THE HORSE PARK

2.1 Initial Monitoring After Arrival

- Temperature checks are not routinely conducted at the front gate, and 3-day temperature logs are not required upon arrival. If disease risk is elevated, management may require entry temperature checks and temperature logs in EquiTrace EventPass.
- Once stabled and at rest, the horse's first temperature should be taken within 3–6 hours of arrival and before leaving the stall for initial work.
- If the initial temperature reveals a fever (101.5°F if not receiving an NSAID; 101.0°F if receiving an NSAID or other temperature-suppressing medication), immediately notify the show veterinarian and biosecurity officer. The horse must remain in its stall until a subsequent temperature is taken by the show veterinarian or biosecurity officer.
- The initial elevated temperature must be reported in accordance with the USEF mandatory fever reporting rule, effective December 1, 2024. Non-compliance is a violation and may result in sanctions.
- DIHP reserves the right to isolate and/or test any horse with fever and/or clinical signs for EHV-1 or other infectious diseases at the owner's expense. DIHP may require EHV-1 testing after the first or second temperature check based on clinical presentation and epidemiologic risk. Failure to comply with requested isolation or testing may result in removal from the event grounds.

2.2 Daily Monitoring During the Horse Show

- Twice-daily temperature checks, morning and evening, are requested throughout the horse's stay at the Horse Park.
- Under the USEF mandatory reporting rule, trainers/owners must immediately notify the show veterinarian and biosecurity officer of an elevated temperature (101.5°F if not receiving an NSAID; 101.0°F if receiving an NSAID or other temperature-suppressing medication).
- A horse with an elevated temperature must remain in its assigned stall. If no other clinical signs are present, the horse may remain there and have its temperature rechecked 1–2 hours later. If it remains febrile or develops signs of infectious disease, the show veterinarian or biosecurity officer must be notified again.
- DIHP reserves the right to require testing and/or isolation within two hours of any horse with fever and/or clinical signs. At any time, if the show veterinarian, biosecurity officer, and/or competition management determines that a febrile horse may pose an infectious-disease risk, the horse must be moved to isolation within two hours of DIHP's request.
- If the trainer/owner refuses isolation, DIHP management may require the horse and its cohorts to leave the competition grounds immediately. Failure to comply will result in referral to USEF for enforcement.
- Release from isolation will be based on the collective decision of DIHP show management, the biosecurity officer, East-West Equine Sports Medicine, and USEF, considering diagnostic test results, absence of abnormal clinical signs, and epidemiologic risk assessment.
- For the next seven (7) days, the show veterinarian or horse show biosecurity officer will oversee temperature checks of all horses in the trainer's cohort and may require logging of temperatures in the

EquiTrace app. Additional febrile horses or horses showing signs of infectious disease may be required to report to isolation or may request permission to leave the premises for isolation.

PART III — BIOSECURITY PRACTICES DURING THE HORSE SHOW

3.1 Overall Practices

- A nighttime curfew will be in place each evening at 9:00 p.m. Noise must be kept to a minimum in barn/tent areas, and unnecessary lights will be turned off.
- DIHP will maintain hand-sanitizing stations at barn/tent entries and ringside. Individuals working with horses are encouraged to clean their hands frequently.
- Whenever possible, tack, rider clothing, horse-care tools, rags, buckets, and other equipment should be dedicated to an individual horse and not shared.
- Grooms, riders, and trainers should maintain a safe distance between horses throughout the property.
- DIHP will regularly clean and disinfect common areas, including wash racks, shade structures, and hoses, and perform vector control throughout barns, tents, and other populated areas.
- Signage throughout the Horse Park will identify best practices and required protocols.

3.2 Trainer Cohorts

- Access to each barn/tent should be limited to individuals with horses in that barn/tent.
- Grooms, trainers, and riders should avoid contamination between trainer groups, including sharing tack, cleaning materials, brushes, or other equipment.
- When moving between trainer groups, individuals are encouraged to change clothing and wash and/or disinfect hands, boots, and equipment.

3.3 Rings & Common Areas

- Maintain space between horses and take precautions to prevent cross-contamination.
- Do not share tack or horse-care materials between horses. Riders moving from one horse to another should wash their hands with soap and water or use disinfectant. Towels, nose rags, and similar materials should not be shared.
- Cleaning/sanitizing stations will be available throughout the competition area.

3.4 Third-Party Providers

Includes veterinarians, grooms, farriers, braiders, night check, equine spa services, horse exercisers, and others.

- Third-party providers must disinfect tools and work areas before moving between barns, tents, and trainer groups.
- Braiders, veterinarians, farriers, and night checkers must clean and disinfect their hands and shoes between horses. Night check personnel are also requested to disinfect shoes between barns/tents and use PPE when working with an individual horse.
- Equine spa vendors must sanitize spas after each use, use separate handling equipment for each horse, and require employees to sanitize their hands, clothing, and shoes between horses. Horses' temperatures should be taken before spa use and be less than 101.5F. Maintain a daily log of horses using the spa in the event an infectious disease is diagnosed.
- Only horses from the same barn may use the IDA horse walker at the same time. IDA must disinfect the walker before subsequent use by horses from another barn.

- All third-party providers must maintain a list of horses worked on and provide it to management or state officials upon request in the event of an infectious-disease incursion.

3.5 Veterinary & Farrier Stations

- Cleaning stations will be available at the veterinary clinic and farrier station.
- Veterinarians and farriers must clean and disinfect between horses.
- DIHP will regularly clean and disinfect the veterinary clinic and farrier station using a long-term disinfectant.

3.6 FEI Horses

- Standard FEI protocols for FEI-competing horses must be followed in addition to DIHP protocols.

PART IV — ISOLATION & INFECTIOUS DISEASE PROCEDURES

4.1 Horse Enters Isolation

- When a horse is moved to isolation, it may be placed in either the DIHP onsite or off-site isolation area. An onsite rapid test will be performed, and a sample will also be submitted to an accredited laboratory for confirmatory testing.
- If confirmatory testing is negative, the horse must remain in isolation until it has been afebrile for 72 hours without antipyretic medication. At the end of the 72-hour afebrile period, the horse will be retested using the same rapid and confirmatory testing process. If fever recurs at any time, the 72-hour afebrile period restarts.
- If testing is positive for an infectious disease agent, the timing of subsequent testing will be determined by the biosecurity officer based on the horse's clinical status and in consultation with the appropriate parties.
- At a minimum, release from isolation requires 72 hours afebrile without antipyretic medication and two validated/confirmed negative EHV-1 tests or, for other infectious disease agents, one confirmed negative test.
- No horse in isolation may compete. An exercise plan will be established by the show veterinarian and/or biosecurity officer.
- Release from isolation will be based on a collective decision by DIHP show management, the biosecurity officer, East-West Equine Sports Medicine, and USEF, considering diagnostic test results, absence of abnormal clinical signs, and epidemiologic risk assessment. Once released, the horse may return to its stall and resume exercise and competition at the discretion of the owner/trainer/veterinarian.

4.2 Horse Tests Positive for EHV-1

- A horse testing positive for EHV-1 on a Fluxergy rapid test may/will be moved within two hours or less to an off-site isolation barn on non-DIHP property. The DIHP biosecurity officer will maintain the facility; the horse will remain under the care of the show veterinarian, and the facility will operate under DIHP biosecurity protocols and USEF guidance. A confirmatory PCR test will be conducted, with the

horse remaining off-site while results are pending. Additional testing and treatment will be determined collectively by DIHP management, the biosecurity officer, USEF, and East-West Equine Sports Medicine.

- At a minimum, an EHV-1-positive horse must remain isolated until afebrile for 72 hours without antipyretic medication and has two validated/confirmed negative EHV-1 tests. If fever recurs, these requirements must again be met. Once cleared, the horse may return to its stall and resume exercise and competition at the discretion of the owner/trainer/veterinarian.
- The trainer/owner may elect isolation at a home facility, subject to recommended guidelines from the show veterinarian, DIHP biosecurity officer, and USEF.
- Based on consultation with the biosecurity officer and East-West Equine Sports Medicine, EHV-1-positive horses will be encouraged to begin antiviral treatment and zinc/lysine supplementation to reduce the risk of EHM.
- The positive horse's cohort (barn/tent) will be placed under additional biosecurity protocols. For seven (7) days, twice-daily temperature logs will be monitored by the show veterinarian and/or biosecurity officer and temperatures may be required to be logged in the EquiTrace app. DIHP may limit cohort access and use foot baths and additional stall disinfectant. These precautions may remain in place for up to seven days if no additional febrile horses are identified.
- Asymptomatic cohort horses may exercise and compete if their temperatures remain below 101°F before leaving their stalls. Additional restrictions or testing may be required based on epidemiologic risk assessment.
- Additional febrile cohort horses will receive an at-stall Fluxergy rapid EHV-1 test. If negative, a febrile horse may still be required to enter isolation based on a collective decision by DIHP management, the biosecurity officer, USEF, and East-West Equine Sports Medicine.
- If a second horse in the cohort tests positive, the entire cohort will be under DIHP restrictions for at least seven days, or until no other horses are febrile or showing clinical signs. EHV-1-positive horses will be cleared and relocated to designated off-site isolation; all cohort horses must remain in their stalls and follow a restricted exercise plan. Competition eligibility will be determined collectively by DIHP management and associated veterinarians in conjunction with USEF.
- Isolation procedures for an affected competition barn may include fencing around the barn/tent, security personnel, and limited access, as determined in consultation with East-West Equine Sports Medicine, the DIHP biosecurity officer, and USEF.

4.3 Equine Herpes Myeloencephalopathy (EHM)

- A febrile or EHV-1-positive horse showing additional clinical signs consistent with EHM will be moved immediately to off-site isolation, and USEF and CDFA will be notified.
- The horse will receive a rapid EHV-1 test. If negative, it will remain off-site until a CDFA laboratory confirmatory PCR test 48 hours later.
- During this period, the horse's barn/tent will be placed under precautionary biosecurity protocols, including foot baths, veterinarian-monitored temperature checks, and further limited access.
- If the neurologic horse tests positive for EHV-1, CDFA assumes responsibility for quarantine and protocols until the Horse Park is officially released from state quarantine and restrictions.

4.4 Vesicular Stomatitis (VS)/New World Screwworm (NWSW)

- New World Screwworm and Vesicular Stomatitis are regulatory diseases subject to protocols established by state and federal animal-health officials.
- A horse showing compatible clinical signs will be immediately isolated, and all cohorts will be examined for similar lesions. DIHP will notify CDFA and USEF, and the affected horse will be tested

for VS virus or treated for screwworm infestation. Further action will be determined by DIHP in consultation with CDFA and USEF.

PART V — WORKING TOGETHER TO KEEP HORSES SAFE

5.1 DIHP — Our Part

- DIHP has a Biosecurity Officer who is a licensed veterinarian. The Biosecurity Officer will guide implementation of DIHP biosecurity protocols, obtain feedback, provide assistance when needed, and help ensure that Horse Park staff and participants follow the daily measures necessary to protect horses on the grounds. The show veterinarian, East-West Equine Sports Medicine, together with the horse's private veterinarian, is primarily responsible for treatment.
- DIHP will regularly clean and disinfect the Horse Park, particularly high-traffic areas. Stalls will be disinfected whenever the occupant changes. Participants should notify DIHP if an area is not clean or if they have concerns.
- DIHP will implement vector-management controls to reduce risks from flies, gnats, and other pests.
- DIHP will maintain preparedness for an EHV-1 case and support the show veterinarian by ensuring that necessary supplies and medications are available onsite for immediate use.
- **DIHP will report all horses entering isolation to 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.
- **DIHP will ONLY provide general press releases/communications regarding EHV-1/infectious diseases onsite if:**
 - 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 may not generate a press release.
 - A partial or 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.
 - Epidemiologic investigation deems there is 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.
 - CDFA, USDA, or both have found that certain criteria have been met and that the health and welfare of horses, as well as containment of infectious diseases, require such a statement.
- Any decision to limit, postpone, or cancel a competition, as well as subsequent decisions to resume competition, will be made in consultation with USEF and CDFA.

5.2 Participants — Your Part

- Do not bring sick horses to DIHP. Horses that have had a fever or clinical signs of illness within the previous seven (7) days should not be brought to DIHP until the issue has been resolved.
- Take your horse's temperature twice daily. If your horse becomes ill while at the Horse Park, immediately notify the show veterinarian and biosecurity officer, as required by USEF.
- The most important thing you can do is isolate sick horses as soon as possible and allow us to provide appropriate care. It is good for the horse and good for all the other horses as well. Horse Park staff are here to assist you.
- While at the Horse Park, practice good hygiene and common-sense biosecurity measures and follow all DIHP biosecurity protocols established to protect the health and welfare of horses on the premises.