

BIOSECURITY TIPS FOR HORSE OWNERS

Anytime horses or their owners leave the farm to compete, breed, train, or go to a veterinary hospital they can be exposed to a variety of disease agents, increasing the risk of spreading diseases. By adding these practices to your herd management routine, you can mitigate the risk of diseases such as equine herpes myeloencephalopathy (EHM), equine infectious anemia (EIA), equine piroplasmiasis, and equine viral arteritis (EVA).

Leaving the Stable

- When moving your horses, use your own trailer. Do not haul your horse with horses from other farms.
- If you must use someone else's trailer, clean and disinfect it before loading your horse.
- Prevent nose-to-nose contact.
- Do not share equipment (e.g., needles, water and feed buckets, brushes, or sponges).
- Wash your hands after helping other people with their horses.

Returning to the Stable

- Clean and disinfect tack, boots, equipment, and grooming supplies before returning.
- Upon your return, shower and put on clean clothes and shoes.
- If possible, keep horses that were off the farm separate from your other horses for at least two weeks. Prevent any nose-to-nose contact.
- When feeding and doing chores, work with the returning horses last. Wear boots and coveralls, and remove them before working with other horses.

Adding New Horses

- Keep new horses separate from other horses for 30 days. Do not use the same pitchforks, grooming tools, or feed and water buckets on any horse but the new one.
- Work with the new horse last each day, or wear boots and coveralls that can be removed before working with the other horses.

Personnel

- Wash your hands often.
- Always wash your hands with soap and water, and blow your nose after working with a new horse. You could carry germs to other horses in your nose.
- Do not let other people pet your horses, especially those with horses at home or people who have been out of the state or country in the past two weeks.

Keep Germs From Spreading

- If one of your horses is sick, isolate the animal and put up signs to limit unnecessary contact.
- Put a foot bath at the entrance and/or exit of the isolation area and keep coveralls and boots or plastic foot covers near.
- Insects, birds, and rodents can all spread disease causing germs to horses; use effective insect and rodent control methods.
- [AAEP disinfectant table](#) provides practical information of common equine pathogens and the efficacy of disinfectants on various surfaces and materials.

For a complete set of guidelines visit [American Association of Equine Practitioners \(AAEP\) website](#).

If elevated temperature, respiratory signs, or EHM-compatible clinical signs are noticed, owners should contact their veterinarian.



LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT of
AGRICULTURE & FORESTRY
MIKE STRAIN, DVM Commissioner

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