Equine Influenza Virus

**Definition**
Equine influenza virus is a RNA virus that occurs sporadically in epidemic form in horse populations worldwide (except in Iceland, Australia or New Zealand).

**Clinical Signs**
- Fever
- Coughing (sometimes paroxysmal)
- Mucopurulent nasal discharge
- Distal limb edema may occur
- Cardiac myopathy has been reported in affected animals

**Incubation:** Potentially as short as 24 hours and up to 3 days.

**Transmission**
- Aerosol transmission (most common)
  - Inhalation of droplets from coughing and snorting (may be able to spread as far as 50 yards by this route).
  
  Respiratory shedding typically lasts for 7-10 days in naïve animals; much shorter shedding periods occur for partially immune horses.

  Indirect transmission can occur.

**Diagnostic Testing**
- Virus isolation
- PCR
- Immunoassay—stall-side kit
- Serology—paired titers may be of use

**Shedding Time of Organism Past Resolution of Clinical Signs**
Probable for 7 days, possible up to 10 days.

**Environmental Persistence**
- Virus can remain viable for up to 2 days on fomites.
- In water, virus viability has been reported up to 3 days.

**Specific Control Measures**

**Biosecurity Guidelines**

**Vaccination**
- Booster vaccination of healthy animals in primary and secondary contagion control perimeter is likely to be of value, and is not known to lead to complications.

  If animals are unvaccinated prior to the outbreak, the use of a modified live intranasal vaccine is recommended as this can achieve protection within 5 days of primary administration.
Release of animals from isolation:
Maintain isolation procedures (primary perimeter) for 21 days after resolution of last suspected new infection.

**Biosecurity Issues for Receiving Animals**

For horses having been housed within primary perimeter:
Isolate from the general population for 14 days

For other horses:
Vaccination requirements may be considered when disease risk is elevated.
Certificate of Veterinary Inspection specifications—disclaimer regarding disease exposure within a specified interval.

**Zoonotic Potential**
None known.