



Biosecurity

This handout supplements the
Down and Dirty on Biosecurity Webinar
presented by the AAEP Horse Owner Education Committee

Biosecurity is a set of management practices that limit the spread of disease. Biosecurity is important to keep all your equids safe, both on and off the farm.

Each plan needs to be tailored to the individual situation. Everyone, no matter how small their involvement, needs to buy in to and follow the practices.

Have a plan in place before you need it!

Biosecurity kit:

- Biosecurity plan
- Thermometer
- Hand sanitizer and hand washing stations
- Gloves
- Pan or bin for foot bath
- Bleach or peroxide compound
- Spray bottle
- Extra halter and lead rope
- Caution tape or biosecurity signage

On the Farm

- Have a farm biosecurity plan and educate everyone on it
- Risk assessment
 - Personalized biosecurity risk calculator from the University of Guelph:
<https://www.thehorseportal.com/biosecurity-risk-calculator-tool/personalized-biosecurity-risk-calculator/>
- Preventative wellness, vaccines, Coggins
- Clean equipment and facilities frequently, keep things clutter-free
- Minimize the amount of communal equipment that is used through the whole facility
- Keep groups of horses together and minimize intermingling
- Monitor for signs of illness daily; not acting right, temperature over 101.5F, coughing, nasal discharge, neurologic signs
- Pest control of both insects and rodents

Quarantine - VERY IMPORTANT

- New horses for two weeks
- Resident horses returning from trail or show recommend based on risk
- With day-to-day chores, take care of these horses last
- Make sure they cannot touch noses with other horses. Use dedicated equipment with them, minimize use of facilities
- It is ideal to keep them as far away as possible from other horses, some disease can spread 300 ft in the air or several miles by flies
- Take temperature twice a day, greater than 101.5F is a concern

Off the Farm

- Determine the risk of the event and decide if you want to go
 - Trail ride by yourself in the state park: low risk
 - Large-area horse show that draws from several states and does not require vaccines or negative Coggins: high risk
- Follow event management biosecurity protocols
 - If there is not one, adapt what you do at home
 - Make sure to notify management if you notice any signs of illness in a horse
- Keep to yourself, minimize contact with other horses and people
 - Don't let people pet your horse
- Minimize contact with communal-use objects
 - Never put a hose into your bucket

What To Do If You Suspect a Infectious Disease Outbreak

- Monitor for clinical signs, take temperature twice a day
- Implement movement restrictions
- Make sure your horse is current on vaccination
- Immediately isolate any sick or potentially sick horse and handle them last
- Call your vet
- Increase your biosecurity measures

Resources

- [Equine Disease Communication Center](#)
 - Report a disease outbreak, learn more about biosecurity, get alerts about current outbreaks and so much more
- How to make a foot bath
 - Low-sided plastic pan or bin that is big enough for a foot
 - Either a long-handled scrub brush to scrub or plastic doormat in the foot bath
 - Fill with disinfectant 1:10 dilution of bleach or a peroxide compound
 - Keep clean, change solution when it looks a little dirty

AAEP Horse Owner Education webinars:

<https://aaep.org/guidelines-resources/horse-owner-resources/horse-owner-education-webinars/>