



Veterinary Health Center

University of Missouri

Biosecurity at Equestrian Events

Equestrian events include any function where horses from different resident populations aggregate, including rodeos, horse shows, endurance rides, racetracks, instructional clinics, state fairs or group trail ride events.

1) Do not bring your horse to an equestrian event if your horse has active or recent signs of a potential infectious disease. This includes purulent (white or yellow) nasal discharge, cough, fever, diarrhea or enlarged submandibular (under the jaw) lymph nodes. If your horse has recently been ill, AVOID attending equestrian events for at least three weeks past resolution of all clinical symptoms.

2) While participating at equestrian events, monitor your horse's rectal temperature twice daily, using a dedicated thermometer for each horse. Notify the veterinarian on call and the manager of the event if your horse develops fever of greater than 102 F, respiratory signs such as cough or purulent nasal discharge, neurologic symptoms, diarrhea or vesicular lesions along the gums and or coronary bands at an equestrian event.

3) Do not put horses in stalls that have not been properly cleaned and disinfected between uses.

4) Avoid tying up your horse in common areas and commingling near areas for disposal of manure or soiled bedding. Consider grazing in low traffic areas. Avoid nose to nose contact with other horses and letting other people pet, feed or touch your horse. Keep your contact with other horses at the event limited.

5). Wash your hands frequently. Supply a 65-70 percent alcohol gel hand sanitizer for your stall area. Use frequently and allow 10 seconds of contact time for gel hand sanitizers.

4) Avoid sharing group water troughs, and do not let your horse drink from the hose. Do not submerge the hose nozzle in the water when refilling water buckets.

5) Label your horse's belongings, and DO NOT SHARE tack, bridles, halters, saddle pads, brushes, lip chains, twitches or oral paste medications.

6) Bring your own equipment to the event. Have separate water buckets, feed tubs, water hoses and stall cleaning equipment designated for travel. Clean and disinfect all equipment taken to the event including water buckets, stall cleaning equipment and wheel barrows (including wheels). Do not put this equipment back into the general circulation at your farm when returning home.

7) Clean and disinfect your truck and trailer after the event.



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- Remove all organic material from the interior and exterior surfaces of the trailer. Do not forget the tires of your truck and trailer.
- Wash surfaces with a detergent, rinse thoroughly and then apply disinfectant. Allow the proper amount of contact time as recommended by the disinfectant's labeled instructions prior to rinsing with water.
- Recommended disinfectants include phenolic or accelerated hydrogen peroxide products. Alternatively, a 1:10 bleach to water dilution can be used; however, diluted bleach water will be ineffective in the presence of organic material (feces and dirt).
- Wipe down the door handles and truck interior with alcohol wipes.

8) Keep up-to-date on vaccinations and deworming as recommended by your veterinarian. Check to see if vaccination records are required for entry or participation at the event you are attending.

9) Have a plan for isolating horses returning home from equestrian events from other resident horses on the farm if necessary. Separate paddocks or stabling (even temporary stabling) can be used for these horses if necessary, with a distance of 35 feet maintained from the resident horse population.

10) Check the equine disease communication center (<http://www.equinediseasecc.org>) to learn about areas of recent infectious disease outbreaks prior to traveling with your horse.

Additional resources:

- http://vet.tufts.edu/wp-content/uploads/HLA_Equine_Herpesvirus.pdf
- <http://www.aaep.org>
- https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/ahfss/animal_health/pdfs/Y.pdf
- http://www.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/ceh/local_resources/pdfs/currenthealth_whitepaper_EHM.pdf

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