

PLANS AND PREPARATIONS

Define a single point of entry and exit from the facility.

Identify an isolation area or stall in case a horse becomes ill during the event.

Develop emergency plans for the possibility of participants being quarantined during the event or show.

If possible, designate stalls to prevent nose-to-nose contact between horses from different farms.

Confirm that all horses entering the event or show have had a negative Coggins test within 12 months. Additionally, horses from out-of-state should have a health certificate from a veterinarian.

Secure a veterinarian who is willing to be on-call or present during the event.

Remind participants of the importance of practicing appropriate biosecurity.



KEEP IT CLEAN

Provide adequate washing facilities for both humans and horses.

Discourage the sharing of tack or equipment between horses from different farms.

If possible, request that the stalls at the facility be sanitized prior to your event or show.

IDENTIFY ILLNESS EARLY

Know the signs of a sick horse.

A veterinarian should be contacted if a horse is showing signs of illness.

When a sick horse is identified, it should be isolated immediately.

SIGNS OF AN ILL HORSE

General:

- Drainage from eyes
- Fever ($>101.5^{\circ}\text{F}$)
- Depression
- Weakness
- Lethargy
- Loss of appetite

Respiratory:

- Nasal discharge
- Cough
- Head/neck extended
- Difficulty breathing

Gastrointestinal:

- Colic
- Diarrhea
- Food coming out of nose or mouth

Skin:

- Blisters or sores
- Circular areas of hair loss

Neurological:

- Behavioral changes
- Sudden loss of vision
- Lack of coordination
- Inability to rise
- Seizing
- Head bobbing
- Swaying

BIOSECURITY IS KEY

Biosecurity is a set of management practices that work to prevent horses from coming in contact with germs that cause illness.

At events, horses often have more contact with other horses, of unknown health and vaccination status. Additionally, they are more likely to be stressed from travelling and a new environment. Both of which are ideal conditions for disease spread.

By factoring biosecurity into your planning, you are working to keep your participant's horses healthy and ensuring the success of your event.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

Michigan Department of
Agriculture and Rural
Development's
Equine Disease Program

800-292-3939

P.O. Box 30017
Lansing, MI 48909

 *Michigan* Department of
AGRICULTURE
& Rural Development
www.michigan.gov/equinediseases



Equine Biosecurity

**FOR EVENT AND
SHOW MANAGERS**