

Infectious disease and biosecurity

Spread of infectious diseases is one of the main reasons for reduced welfare, illness and mortality in horses and a cause of significant financial loss to the horse industry.

How to prevent the spread of infectious diseases...

- It is recommended to separate any horse with clinical signs of an infectious disease (e.g. nasal discharge) from other horses.
- It is recommended to quarantine newly arriving horses from horses permanently stabled at a premises for an adequate period of time to ensure absence of disease (as a minimum 10-14 days depending on the health status of the horses).
- Cleaning and disinfection of stables and transport vehicles should be carried out between occupation by different horses.
- Equipment should not be shared between horses.
- Horses should not be allowed to drink from communal water sources when assembled in new groups (shows, competition, sales etc.).
- Vaccination against tetanus is always recommended. Vaccination against equine influenza is mandatory for most competition horses, and is recommended for other horses. Vaccination against other infectious diseases is advisable depending on the geographical location of the horse or on veterinary advice.
- Good ventilation in horse accommodation is important to minimise spread of respiratory infectious diseases between horses.



Limiting infectious disease spread

Depending on the type of disease causing outbreak, different biosecurity measures should be taken to limit and control spread within the population at risk. All horse owners should follow recommendations set from authorities or professional organisations as a minimum standard.