
Biosecurity for Equine Event Participants



The primary responsibility for biosecurity at events lies with horse owners, custodians and riders participating at an event. Horses that are suspected of suffering from an infectious or contagious disease, or have been in contact with sick animals, **MUST NOT** be brought to horse events.

Before Attending an Event

- Inquire in advance about specific protocols that the event organizers may have in place and be prepared to adhere to them. For instance:
 - vaccination requirements
 - Equine Infectious Anemia (Coggins) testing
 - biosecurity plan
- In the three to five days leading up to and following an event, monitor your horse's health for the following:
 - normal eating and drinking
 - changes in behaviour
 - unusual nasal discharge
 - coughing
 - signs of discomfort
 - unusual stance or weight shifting
 - swelling or lameness
 - record rectal temperatures
- Consult with a veterinarian if you identify any concerns or symptoms.
- Do not attend the show if the horse is ill.

Travelling

- Avoid shipping your horses with horses from other farms of unknown health status.
- Use your own trailer or clean and disinfect a borrowed trailer before you use it.
- Do not let your horses touch noses with other horses.
- Avoid sharing buckets, brushes and hoses with horses from other farms.
- Never reuse needles or syringes for injections.
- Never put the shared end of a water hose in your horse's water bucket.
- Do not hand-graze your horse where others have recently grazed.
- If you have touched other unknown horses or horses you don't own, wash your hands before touching your own horses.
- Do not let strangers pet your horses.



Arriving at the Event

When arriving at an event where your horse will be staying in a stall, there could be risks that may cause the horse to become infected. To prevent the spread of disease, follow these practices:

- Remove any old bedding that might be present.
- Clean walls, railings and doors to remove any organic material and disinfect all surfaces your horse will have contact with, as well as door latches.
- Avoid contact with a surface like a fence or stall wall that may be contaminated with secretions from an infected horse.

During the Event

Typically, event officials, exhibitors, spectators and vendors move freely around the venue grounds, interacting with numerous other people, animals and objects. These unrestricted movements and interactions may inadvertently increase the risks for introducing infectious pathogens and spreading them during an event. Follow these practices to monitor the health of your horses:

- Check your horse's temperature twice daily.
- Do not share feed or water containers.
- Wipe the hose end with a disinfectant. Hold the hose above the water bucket and then fill the water bucket.

- Do not use communal water troughs.
- Only share cleaned and disinfected tack and equipment.
- If stabling is not assigned and space allows, leave an empty stall between your horses and those from other locations.
- Disinfect your assigned stalls before bringing your horse in.
- If stables are full, assess the risk from nose to nose contact with horses from other locations, and consider placing tarps or other physical barriers to prevent contact.
- If your horse develops a fever or signs of illness, contact a vet and an event official immediately.

After the Event

Clean all of your tack and grooming supplies just before you leave the event.

If possible, isolate your horse for at least two weeks after returning from an event.

Contact us

- Call us at 204-945-7684 in Winnipeg
- Email us at chiefveterinaryoffice@gov.mb.ca
- Go to manitoba.ca/agriculture
- Follow us on Twitter @MBGovAg

For more information, you can also contact your veterinarian.