



GUIDANCE FOR SETTING UP AN ISOLATION PLAN

BIOSECURITY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR REFERENCE

Sick Horse Notification, Isolation Implementation, and Isolation Release Protocols

A. Horse Health Monitoring and Sick Horse Response

- i. Determine horse health monitoring plan for the event.
 - a) Passive plan allows horse owners to monitor health and report sick horses.
 - b) Active plan, which is highly encouraged, requires exhibitors to take temperatures on all horses and post temperature logs on the stall door once to twice daily. Additionally, a designated event official patrols the event grounds to monitor temperature recordings and observe horses for external clinical signs of disease.
- ii. Event requires immediate notification of clinical signs of disease or temperature over 102° F to a designated event official.
- iii. Event notification to exhibitors required exhibitor actions such as taking and recording of temperature and the immediate notification of event official of a sick horse. (Example of notification: Statement on Entry with required acknowledgement signature.)
- iv. Triggers for isolation may include:
 - a) Fever >102° F Temperature taken in resting horse which has not had anti-inflammatory medications)
 - b) Diarrhea not explained by dietary change or nervousness
 - c) Acute neurologic signs such as wobbly gait, weakness, urine dribbling, loss of tail tone, recumbency, or abnormal behavior (i.e. aggressive, dull, hyperreactive)
 - d) Acute onset of nasal discharge, coughing, and/or enlarged lymph nodes+/- drainage
 - e) Limb edema not explained by trauma, local cellulitis, or excessive standing in stall (especially in combination with fever)
 - f) Vesicles and ulcers of the lips, muzzle, and tongue and/or of the coronary band, udder, or prepuce

B. Implementation of Isolation Plan

- i. Exhibitors notify designated official of temperature over 102° F for clinical signs in a horse on the event grounds or this is detected through active surveillance
- ii. Event management sets up isolation area.
- iii. Designated event official notifies the event veterinarian of sick horse.
- iv. Event veterinarian examines sick horse to determine appropriate diagnostic and isolation plan.
- v. If a state reportable disease is suspected as a potential differential (See Part 11), event veterinarian shall contact state or federal animal health official.
- vi. Reportable disease is suspected or confirmed. State veterinarian or their designee will utilize state authority for quarantine issuance and release. Regulatory official will manage isolation protocols.
- vii. Non-reportable contagious disease is suspected or confirmed (examples Pigeon fever, equine herpesvirus-4, salmonellosis). Event management and event _____ veterinarian determine isolation protocols.
 - a) Sick horse to be placed in isolation stabling to prevent further contact with other horses on the event grounds. Any additional horses which develop clinical signs shall be moved to isolation.
 - b) Exposed horses should be evaluated by event veterinarian to determine what measures should be taken (e.g. placement in secondary isolation). Exposed horses are horses which had potential contact with sick horse (i.e. directly horse to horse or indirectly through personnel or equipment).
- viii. Enhanced biosecurity measures shall be implemented for sick+/- exposed horses.

C. Isolation Release Protocols

- i. The state veterinarian will be in charge of determining release protocols in cases of reportable diseases
- ii. The event veterinarian and event management should work together to determine isolation release protocols in cases of non-reportable potentially contagious disease.
 - a) Horses shall be maintained in isolation at the event until one of the following occurs:
 - i. The horse tests negative for all suspected infectious disease agents.
 - ii. The horse is no longer clinical and has tested negative for suspected disease agents.
 - iii. The horse is moved to another facility and quarantined if necessary.
- iv. For additional guidance practitioners can utilize AAEP Flow Charts to work up cases of respiratory, neurologic, diarrheal and vesicular disease (aaep.org)

DETAILS OF ISOLATION SET-UP, EQUIPMENT, AND PROCEDURES

A. Isolation Site Determination

- i. Determine appropriate location the furthest away from showing equine as possible. It may be more appropriate to designate an off-site isolation area.
- ii. Diagram on map isolation and event stabling; competition and exercise areas; trailer and public parking and all human, animal and vehicle traffic routes. Note, Traffic (human, vehicle, and animal) must not pass through designated isolation area.
- iii. A physical barrier should separate isolation from the rest of the event grounds.
- iv. Suggested Criteria for Isolation Stabling:
 - a) Stalls are physically separated from general stabling area
 - b) Individual stalls available for at least 1% of horses attending event or at least 10 stalls where the event is larger than 1000 horses.
 - c) Stalls have solid walls or are physically separated to prevent nose to nose contact of horses
 - d) Stalls constructed of hard, non-porous materials with mat-covered floors
- v. Suggested Criteria for Isolation Set Up
 - a) Signage and temporary fencing/barriers around the isolation area
 - b) Water supply (spigot) close to the isolation stalls for hose access; use this hose and spigot only for isolation stalls.
 - c) Area for feed and bedding storage close to isolation stalls; use this storage area only for isolation stalls.
 - d) Designated areas for vehicle access; preferably separate entrance



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B. List of recommended equipment (Biosecurity Toolkit)

i. Stable Supplies

- a) Trash can with secure lid
- b) Garbage bags
- c) Footbath tray for each stall
- d) Bucket or automatic waterer for each stall
- e) Grain tub or manger for each stall
- f) Water hose
- g) Laminated or plastic signage to designate isolation area
- h) Portable fencing, sawhorses, or retractable belt barriers
- i) Sharps container
- j) Spray bottle with disinfectant for surface cleaning
- k) Wheelbarrow (designated for manure and soiled bedding in isolation area only)
- l) Pitchfork, shovel, and other cleaning tools (designated for isolation area only)
- m) Rodent Traps
- n) Liquid laundry detergent
- o) Disinfectant for foot baths, stalls, and horse trailers

ii. Sick Horse Supplies

- a) Digital thermometer designated for each horse
- b) Insect repellent for horses

iii. Personal Protective Equipment

- a) Disposable plastic booties
- b) Disposable latex or nitrile gloves
- c) Disposable coveralls
- d) Hand sanitizer
- e) Hand soap (if sink is available)
- f) Paper towels

C. Event Isolation Plan Management

i. Preparation and Management of Isolation

- a) Designate person(s) in charge of coordinating isolation

ii. Responsibilities:

- a. Obtain equipment and supplies for isolation
- b. Set up isolation perimeter barriers
- c. Perform routine management of the isolation area, ensuring cleaning and disinfection protocols are followed and isolation supplies are inventoried and replenished as needed.
- d. Designate person(s) responsible for receiving and responding to sick horse reports.

iii. Responsibilities

- a. Receive report from horse owner or designee
- b. Provide initial biosecurity guidance to owner or designee
- c. Provide information to event veterinarian
- d. Provide information to isolation coordinator

D. Designate person(s) responsible for security of isolation

- i. Restrict access to the isolation area to only essential personnel
- ii. Determine and post hours of access to isolation
- iii. Post signage clearly designating isolation.
- iv. Create a log book system for personnel entering/exiting isolation

E. Designate person(s) responsible for communication

- i. Develop protocols for communication with exhibitors, horse owners, trainers, the public
- ii. Develop press release template for use during an incident
- iii. Handle all communications during the incident

F. Personal Protection Equipment (PPE)

i. All personnel handling horses in isolation will wear:

- a) Disposable coveralls or designated coveralls for the isolation stall that are washed after each use.
- b) Disposable gloves (latex or nitrile)
- c) Protective Footwear

- i. Disposable plastic booties over normal footwear for entrance to each stall in isolation
- ii. Rubber boots that can be disinfected in footbath outside each stall in isolation
- iii. PPE should be disposed of (or coveralls washed) after each use and new PPE applied for each horse

G. Isolation Biosecurity



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- i. Cleaning and Disinfecting
 - a) All surfaces will be cleaned thoroughly prior to application of disinfectant
 - b) Disinfectant will be used in accordance with label instructions
 - i. Options for disinfectant
 - c) 10% diluted Bleach solution (Does not work in the presence of organic material ie dirt or manure)
 - d) Phenolic products ex: One Stroke Environ®, TekTrol®
 - e) Accelerated hydrogen peroxide products ex: Intervention®
 - f) Hands will be washed with soap and water or hand sanitizer used before and after handling each isolated horse.
 - g) Footbath with appropriate disinfectant will be placed in front of each stall.
 - i. Footbath disinfectant will be changed daily or as necessary to prevent accumulation of organic material.
 - ii. Footwear (either rubber boots or normal footwear covered with disposable plastic booties) will be dipped in disinfectant when entering and leaving stall
 - ii. Handling manure, soiled bedding, and waste produced by isolated horses
 - a) Wastes shall be accumulated in a secure area
 - b) Disposal in accordance with local regulations. For recommendations on handling the potentially contaminated wastes contact the local public health department, local environmental health control agency, or state veterinarian.
 - iii. Protocols for Personnel Entry to Isolation
 - a) Personnel entry should be limited to essential personnel only.
 - b) Personnel contacting horses in isolation should handle isolated horses after caring for healthy horses.
 - c) Individuals should shower and change clothes prior to contact with healthy horses.
 - d) All protocols for biosecurity (wearing of PPE, cleaning, and disinfection) must be carefully followed to minimize disease spread.
 - iv. Isolation Stalls and Trailer
 - a) Any stalls or vehicles which a sick horse has been in should be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected.
 - b) The stall or trailer should be emptied of organic material as much as possible, scrubbed with detergent and low-pressure water, allowed to dry, and then disinfected according to label instructions.
 - v. Insect/Tick Vector and Rodent Control Procedures
 - a) Apply insect repellents regularly to isolated horses
 - b) Treat tick infected horses under the direction of a veterinarian
 - c) Use rodent traps around the isolation area
 - d) Keep feed in sealed containers and on palettes
 - vi. Considerations for Zoonotic Diseases
 - a) Some diseases requiring isolation of horses have the potential to infect humans.
 - b) If a zoonotic disease is a differential diagnosis, necessary precautions must be taken to prevent exposure of personnel, which will vary according to the infectious organism.
- F. Monitoring of Horses in Isolation**
- i. Any necessary veterinary care and treatment should be provided to horses in isolation by the owner or the owner's designated veterinarian
 - ii. Temperatures should be taken twice daily on all horses in isolation.
 - a) Temperatures should be recorded on a daily log.
 - b) Isolation manager is responsible for monitoring temperature logs
 - iii. Daily clinical observations of all horses in isolation.
 - a) All horses should be observed for any externally visible clinical signs of disease by the isolation manager or their designee at least twice daily and observations recorded in a log.
 - i. Restrict movement of horses in isolation
 - b) Sick horses shall not leave their isolation stall.
 - c) Exposed non-clinical horses in isolation should be restricted
 - i. These non-clinical horses should not come in contact with other non- exposed horses at the event.
 - ii. These non-clinical horses should exercise in dedicated area separate from event horses. If exercise area must be shared a schedule should be set to designate times for isolation horses and event horses to use the arena separately. Signs should be posted designating the area and scheduled times for each group of horses.