

Equine Herpes Virus

California EHV-1 Causing EHM Disease Equine Herpes

The State 4-H office remains neutral on whether or not to hold events – but along with experts we do recommend that unnecessary travel be avoided. In the end, the local community will decide what level of risk they are willing to accept. Please contact the County Director for concerns, comments, and questions.

Here are some best practices for holding and attending equine events:

1. Create a short document for participants to sign upon arrival at the show grounds to confirm that their horses, mules, and burros attending the show/event have not attended or had prior contact with horses from the NCHA Championships in Ogden, Utah and/or the Kern County Cutting Event in Bakersfield, CA, or been on the same premises with horses that have returned from these events. Horses that have attended or have been exposed to horses returning from either event should not be allowed to enter the show grounds.
2. Establish a “No Fever” policy for horses attending the event. Give the participants prior notice of the new “No Fever” policy before they arrive at the show grounds. It is recommended that the horse’s temperature be recorded 48 hours and 24 hours before the event. If the temperature is over 102 the horse should not be brought to the event. If the horse will be traveling 48 hours prior to the event the recommendation is that they do not come as they could already be contaminated.
 - o Any horse with a fever of 102°F or greater should be removed from the event and premises immediately (i.e. within 2 hours of detection of fever).
3. The temperature being below 102 degrees two days and one day prior to the event increases the odds of discovering an infected horse prior to other external signs, but is not an absolute “test” of whether a horse is infected and incubating, infected and shedding, or infected and recovering.
4. It is understood that some (most) horses with a fever will not have EHV-1; however, in the interest of conducting a safe event under the current circumstances, the no fever policy should be enforced. If families do not wish to comply with these safety measures they should not attend the event.

These recommendations are based on those provided on the CDFA website:

http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/ahfss/animal_health/equine_herpes_virus.html

Please note: Project animals are not covered by UC liability insurance. Members and their families are responsible for seeking insurance to cover their animals. If this is desired, they should check with their insurance company as some homeowner’s insurance policies will cover animals.