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Equine herpesvirus myeloencephalopathy (EHM) (rev. 06-01-2018)

Definitions.

- a. Close association.** "Close association" means horses that have (1) had direct nose-to-nose contact, (2) shared water or feed pails, and/or (3) been kept within the same building or trailer.
- b. EHM.** "EHM" stands for "equine herpesvirus myeloencephalopathy", a syndrome of horses with neurological symptoms associated with equine herpes virus infection.
- c. EHM-exposed horse.** "EHM-exposed horse" means (1) any horse that has been held in close association with an EHM positive horse at the time the disease is diagnosed or within 72 hours prior to the onset of neurological symptoms, or (2) any resident horse on a premises where an EHM positive horse is identified.
- d. EHM positive horse.** An "EHM positive horse" is one that has tested positive on an official test for equine herpes virus and has neurological symptoms consistent with EHM.
- e. EHV-1.** "EHV-1" means "equine herpesvirus type 1", a virus that can cause a potentially serious disease in horses. EHV-1 can cause abortion in mares, neonatal death, respiratory disease, and neurological symptoms.
- f. Official test for EHV-1.** An official test for EHV-1 is a real-time polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) test conducted on nasal swabs or blood samples at a laboratory approved by the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians (AAVLD), a confirmed necropsy diagnosis, virus isolation, or other test approved by the Board. Samples for official EHV-1 tests must be collected by or under the direct supervision of an accredited veterinarian.

Equine herpesvirus myeloencephalopathy (EHM).

- I. EHM quarantine procedures.** The board shall immediately quarantine all EHM positive horses and EHM-exposed horses in accordance with Administrative Code Chapter 48.1-01-05.
 - A.** Movement of quarantined horses to other premises is prohibited without written permission from the Board.
 - B.** All horses on a premises where an EHM positive horse is identified, until the quarantine is released, must (1) be monitored closely for fever and other symptoms of illness consistent with EHV-1, (2) have rectal temperatures taken and recorded every 12 hours, and (3) be officially tested for EHV-1 if they develop a fever greater than or equal to 102°F or exhibit clinical symptoms consistent with equine herpesvirus infection, including but not limited to nasal discharge, cough, incoordination, abortion, weakness and urine dribbling. Required tests must be performed at the owner's expense unless state or federal funds are available for this purpose.

- C. EHM positive horses must be quarantined and isolated from all other horses. The isolation stall or enclosure must be located well away from high traffic areas associated with other barns or training areas. Animal caregivers must take precautionary measures to ensure that they do not transmit disease to other horses through contaminated hands, clothing, equipment or tack. The isolation facility must be managed by or under the supervision of a licensed veterinarian.
- D. EHM-exposed horses must be quarantined and should be kept separate from other horses on the same premises.
- E. Quarantines for horses on premises where an EHM positive horse is identified shall be released 21 days after the date when the last horse that shows clinical symptoms of illness due to equine herpesvirus infection has recovered on the premises.
- F. Quarantines for EHM-exposed horses on other premises shall be released (1) 21 days after the date of quarantine if the EHM-exposed horse shows no clinical symptoms of illness due to equine herpesvirus or (2) 21 days after the EHM-exposed horse has recovered if it becomes ill and shows clinical symptoms consistent with equine-herpesvirus infection.
- G. Stalls and trailers where EHM positive horses are kept and equipment used to care for EHM positive horses must be cleaned and disinfected in a manner consistent with current American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP) guidelines and recommendations.

II. Community notification. Following the declaration of quarantine of an EHM positive horse, the Board shall in a timely manner post on its website the location of the facility, identified to the county level, where the EHM positive horse is identified.