

# LEWISTON R. RUNDUP

November 20, 2020 | Equine Influenza

The Lewiston Roundup Association would like to remind its members and patrons that we are nearing Equine Influenza season (December through April), according to the Equine Biosurveillance Program.

Equine Influenza is highly contagious, and the virus spreads rapidly through groups of horses in aerosolized droplets dispersed by coughing, or through objects, surfaces, and materials that are likely to carry bacteria/infection. The majority of the clinical signs are respiratory and may also include fever, edema and enlarged lymph nodes.

Clinical signs may vary, but can include: Fever, depression, anorexia, muscle pain/weakness; dry, harsh cough usually precedes fever. Cough can last up to 6 weeks after other clinical signs have subsided. Nasal discharge is initially thin and watery. Secondary bacterial infections are very common in influenza affected horses. Animals may exhibit slightly enlarged retropharyngeal lymph nodes. We encourage owners to contact their veterinarian immediately if they observe any symptoms of illness in their horses.

Typically, EIV has a 3–5 day incubation period. Clinical signs are more common, and more severe, in younger horses; ages 1– 5. Older horses usually have milder disease. Please note that vaccinated horses can still be infected and shed the virus.

If you are worried about a possible exposure, one of the best things to do is to screen for early signs of disease taking your horse's temperature twice a day (prior to exercise). If your horse has a fever (over 101.5) we recommend calling your veterinarian immediately.

Prevention is key and appropriate biosecurity measures implemented. We urge all that are traveling to make sure your horses are up to date on vaccinations. This means a vaccination for Flu/Rhino within the last 6 months. It is also recommended to vaccinate the horses at home and not just the ones traveling as they are also at risk.

Please incorporate preventative biosecurity measures while transporting, boarding horses at facilities, and events where horses are coming into contact with new horses/ facilities. The Lewiston Roundup Association and PRCA urges horse owners to follow these steps for preventing the spread of livestock diseases such as EIV.

- Do not share water buckets, hay nets or any other feeding/drinking equipment.
- Do not submerge the water hose in your bucket when filling.
- Do not share tack including halters, head stalls, bits, brushes, etc.
- Avoid nose to nose contact with your horse and others.
- Avoid unnecessary contact with other horses.
- Do not tie your horse to fences and rails where other horses are tied.
- Disinfect stalls before use.
- Clean and disinfect trailers, barns, and other equine contact surfaces thoroughly.
- Thoroughly wash hands, change footwear and clothing after being around other horses or other facilities.

Resources:

<http://www.merck-animal-health-equine.com/.../biosurveill...>

[https://aaep.org/.../Guidelines/EQUINE%20INFLUENZA\\_Final.pdf](https://aaep.org/.../Guidelines/EQUINE%20INFLUENZA_Final.pdf)

<https://aaep.org/.../BiosecurityGuidelinesFinal2018.pdf>