



Recently, there have been confirmed cases of neurologic disease caused by Equine Herpes Virus (EHM) reported in the southern United States, along with one isolated case identified in central Alberta. Although there is no indication that these cases are connected, this is a good reminder for all horse owners to review their infectious disease and biosecurity practices.

Below are some practical steps to help reduce risk. If you have any questions or concerns, our veterinary team is always here to help.

1. Vaccination

While EHV vaccination does not prevent the neurologic form (EHM), staying current with boosters can reduce viral shedding and help lessen the severity and duration of illness. Horses that travel or compete should receive their flu/rhino boosters every 6 months for the best protection.

2. Biosecurity

- Avoid non-essential travel to regions experiencing outbreaks.
- Keep higher-risk horses (those that travel) separated from lower-risk horses.
- Do not share equipment such as tack, buckets, grooming supplies, water hoses, or mucking tools.
- Disinfect items or areas multiple horses use (thermometers, stalls, trailers, etc.)
- Wash or sanitize your hands between handling different horses.
- Change clothing when moving between barns or when caring for sick horses.
- Immediately isolate any horse showing a fever or signs of infectious disease.
- ALL new horses should be quarantined for at least 2 weeks.

3. Monitor Temperatures

Fever is often the earliest signs of infection. If exposure is possible, check your horse's rectal temperature regularly.

Contact a veterinarian if the temperature exceeds **38.5 degrees Celsius (101.5 degrees Fahrenheit)**

4. Watch for Clinical Signs

Early indication of EHV-1/EHM may include:

- Fever
- Hind end weakness
- Reduced tail tone
- Difficulty urinating
- A wide based stance
- Incoordination
- Lethargy
- Decreased appetite

Seek veterinary care right away if any of these signs appear.

If you'd like more information about EHV-1, please let us know – we're happy to help.

- Eastern Slopes Veterinary Services.