

EQUINE HERPESVIRUS TYPE 1 (EHV-1) RESPIRATORY AND REPRODUCTIVE DISEASE

QUICK FACTS

General Facts

Equine herpesvirus type 1 (EHV-1) is a very common infectious virus of horses. It can cause respiratory disease, late-term abortions, early foal deaths and neurologic disease. Here, we will focus on EHV-1 induced respiratory and reproductive disease.*

- Disease varies in severity
- Can affect horses of any age
- Spread via coughing horses; direct and indirect contact; nasal secretions; contact with aborted fetuses, placental and fetal fluids
- Most horses are exposed at a young age and become latent carriers for life
- Disease can be reactivated by stress
- Virus shedding can occur silently and last for more than 10 days¹
- Incubation period is 24 hours to 6 days or longer
- Major cause of viral abortion outbreaks in mares
- Abortion can occur weeks to months following virus exposure with no clinical signs

Watch for these Signs of Respiratory and Reproductive Disease

- ⚠ Fever (>101.5°)
- ⚠ Coughing
- ⚠ Nasal discharge
- ⚠ Lethargy/depression
- ⚠ Neonatal death
- ⚠ Late-term abortion (7+ months)



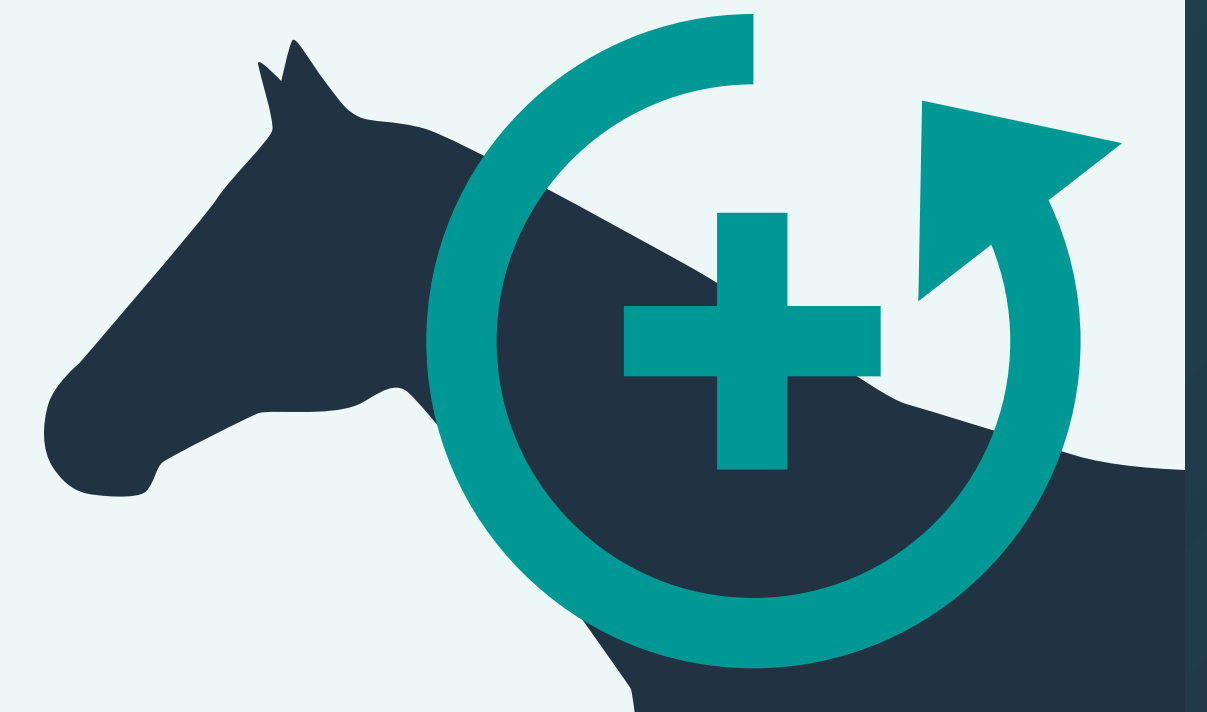
Diagnosis

- Respiratory disease diagnosis is performed with a nasal swab and/or blood sample submitted for polymerase-chain reaction (PCR) testing
- Cause of abortion is diagnosed by laboratory evaluation of the aborted fetus and/or placenta



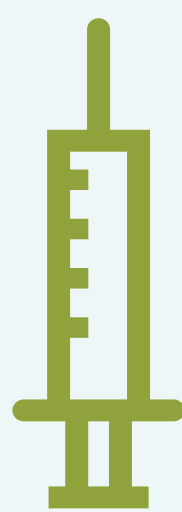
Treatment and Recovery

- Supportive care and rest. Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory products, such as Banamine® (flunixin meglumine) may be prescribed
- Immediate removal of aborted fetus and placenta
- Separate and isolate aborting mare from herd and provide appropriate uterine care
- Recovery depends on severity of disease



Vaccination is the #1 Way to Protect Your Horse Against EHV-1 Respiratory and Reproductive Disease

- PRESTIGE® EHV family of vaccines for respiratory and reproductive disease prevention
- Horses at risk should be revaccinated at 6-month intervals²
 - Horses that travel and are in frequent contact with large numbers of horses
 - Horses at home exposed to traveling horses
 - Horses with compromised or immature immune systems
- Vaccinate pregnant mares at 5, 7 and 9 months of gestation with an inactivated EHV-1 vaccine, such as PRESTIGE® PRODIGY®, which is labeled for prevention of abortion



REMEMBER: Vaccination + Biosecurity is Best!

- EHV-1 is highly contagious and spreads rapidly
- Avoid nose-to-nose contact with other horses
- Isolate all new entries or horses returning to the stable from travel
- Check temperatures at least once and preferably twice daily (Normal = 99°F - 101°F)
- Isolate any horse with elevated temperature and/or occurrence of unprovoked coughing
- Do not share tack, water buckets or feed sources
- Practice good hand hygiene (hand sanitizers in absence of soap and water)
- Clean and disinfect hauling equipment like trailers after each use
- Contact your veterinarian immediately to schedule a comprehensive examination



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

www.equinediseassec.org/disease-information
www.AAEP.org/guidelines
www.aphis.usda.gov

Talk to your veterinarian today to see if your horse is at risk for EHV-1 and determine the appropriate vaccination program. For more information on the PRESTIGE® line of EHV vaccines, visit www.PrestigeVaccines.com.

***EQUINE HERPESVIRUS MYELOENCEPHALOPATHY (EHM) QUICK FACTS** also available.
¹ AAEP Infectious Disease Guidelines: Equine Herpesvirus 1 & 4, Revised 2017.
² AAEP Risk-Based Vaccination Guidelines (www.aaep.org)



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The Science of Healthier Animals

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Animal Health

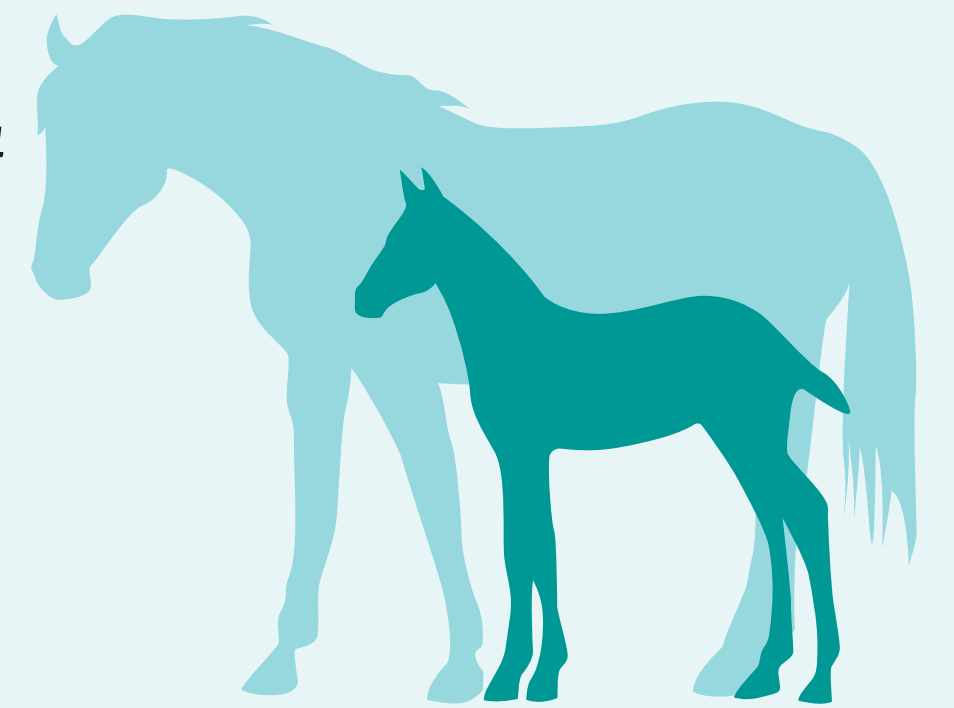
EQUINE HERPESVIRUS TYPE 4 (EHV-4)

QUICK FACTS

Equine herpesvirus type 4 (EHV-4) is the most common infectious upper respiratory disease in the horse.¹ It is endemic in many equine populations.

- Disease varies in severity
- Typically occurs in younger horses, but can affect horses of any age
- Highly contagious – spread via coughing horses; direct and indirect contact; nasal secretions
- Most horses are exposed to the virus at a young age and become latent carriers for life
- Disease can be reactivated by stress
- Virus shedding can occur silently (without clinical signs) and last for more than 10 days
- After exposure, incubation period may be as short as 24 hours, but is typically 4-6 days or longer
- EHV-4 and EHV-1 are of the same family of viruses, but each can cause disease independent of the other

EHV-4 is a tricky disease. As with EHV-1, existence of a carrier state seriously compromises efforts to control EHV-4 and explains why outbreaks of EHV-1 or EHV-4 can occur in closed populations of horses.



Watch for These Signs

- ⚠️ Fever (102°-107°F)
- ⚠️ Nasal and ocular discharge
- ⚠️ Lethargy
- ⚠️ Anorexia



Diagnosis

- Diagnosis is often performed with a nasal swab that is submitted to a laboratory for polymerase-chain reaction (PCR) testing



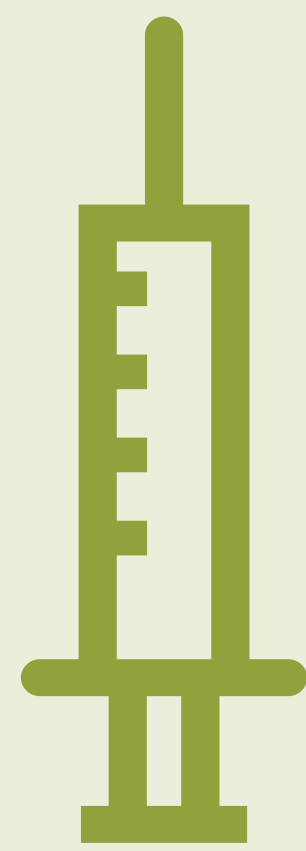
Treatment and Recovery

- Supportive care and rest. Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory products such as Banamine® (flunixin meglumine) may be prescribed by your veterinarian
- Recovery depends on severity of disease



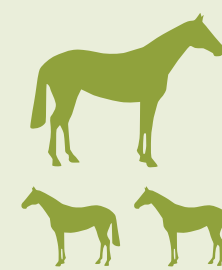
VACCINATION IS THE #1 WAY TO PROTECT YOUR HORSE AGAINST EHV-4

- EHV-4 typically peaks from October to February, but can occur any time of year¹
- Horses at risk should be revaccinated at 6-month intervals²
 - Horses that travel and are in frequent contact with large numbers of horses
 - Horses at home exposed to traveling horses
 - Horses with compromised or immature immune systems
- The benefits of vaccination:
 - Reduced risk of infection
 - Reduced shedding of virus by infected horses so less virus is circulating in the horse population
 - Reduced severity of clinical signs
 - Less time off exercise, training, competing
 - Lower cost of veterinary treatment



REMEMBER: Vaccination + Biosecurity is Best!

1. **EHV-4 is highly contagious and spreads rapidly**
2. Avoid nose-to-nose contact with other horses
3. **Isolate** all new entries or horses returning to the stable from travel
4. **Check temperatures** at least once and preferably twice daily (Normal = 99°F – 101°F)
5. Isolate any horse with elevated temperature and/or occurrence of unprovoked coughing
6. **Do not share** tack, water buckets, feed sources, etc.
7. Practice **good hand hygiene** (hand sanitizers in absence of soap and water)
8. **Clean and disinfect** hauling equipment like trailers after each use
9. **Contact your veterinarian immediately** to schedule a comprehensive examination



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

www.equinediseasecc.org/disease-information
www.AAEP.org/guidelines
www.aphis.usda.gov

Talk to your veterinarian today to see if your horse is at risk for EHV-4 and determine the appropriate vaccination program. For more information on the PRESTIGE® line of EHV vaccines, visit www.PrestigeVaccines.com.

¹ Merck Animal Health and University of California, Davis (Nicola Pusterla, DVM). Infectious Upper Respiratory Disease Surveillance Program. Ongoing research 2008-present.

² AAEP Risk-Based Vaccination Guidelines (www.aaep.org)



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