

# Protect Your Horse from Infectious Diseases

## At Home in Your Barn

### 1 Have a Plan

- Create a biosecurity plan that is practical for your barn

### 2 Know Your Horse

- Monitor the health & nutritional status of your horse
- Maintain accurate, detailed health records
- Develop a vaccination & parasite management plan with your veterinarian

### 3 Clean Hands

- Make it quick & easy so people will do it
- Use liquid soap or alcohol based hand sanitizers (min. 61% alcohol)
- Sing "Happy Birthday" twice when using soap & water
- Provide single-use towels for drying hands
- Install multiple alcohol based hand sanitizers in large barns



### 4 Clean Feet

- Wear designated boots/shoes in the barn
- Clean footwear on a regular basis

### 5 First Clean & then Disinfect

- Discuss your plan & the appropriate disinfectant with your veterinarian
- Create a smooth, waterproof surface that can be easily disinfected: clean walls thoroughly, patch knots with wood filler & seal walls with a marine varnish or polyurethane
- Brush off loose dirt/manure & wash with laundry detergent before disinfecting
- Make sure barn surfaces are clean so that disinfectants will work



### 6 Isolate New Horses

- **Isolate\*** your new horse for 2 weeks (recommended)
- Obtain health, vaccination, parasite control & travel records
- Monitor health of new horse

## Visitors and Visiting

### 7 Be Vigilant on the Road

- If possible, use your own trailer
- Try not to ship with horses from other farms
- Make sure the trailer has been cleaned & disinfected
- When you get home, shower & put on clean clothes/shoes before going near other horses
- If possible, **isolate\*** the horse for at least 2 weeks (especially no nose to nose contact)
- Turn out horses in small, "like" groups (i.e. mares/foals in one area, travelling horses in another)



### 8 Take Precautions Away from Home

#### You

- Have a pair of shoes/boots just for visiting
- Wear coveralls or plan to change if you are around horses on another farm

#### Your Horse

- Ask if venue has a vaccination and biosecurity plan
- Try not to let your horse touch other horses (nose-to-nose contact is the worst)
- Don't share equipment like water/feed buckets, brushes, etc. (careful – keep hose tip above, not touching your bucket)
- Wash your hands, especially after touching other people's horses
- Try not to let strangers touch your horse
- Brush off dirt/manure, then disinfect tack, boots and equipment before leaving (sprays or wipes work well)

### 9 Rules for Visitors

- Post a sign to indicate that visitors should check in
- Keep a visitor's log; if a disease outbreak occurs, it could help to trace the problem
- Remember: Disease-producing agents or microorganisms can be transferred from one facility to another through the movement of people or equipment

### 10 Understand Isolation\*

- Have an isolation plan for new, sick and travelling horses
- Use separate barn ideally or end of aisle, leaving an empty stall in between horses
- Use separate cleaning equipment, grooming tools, feed or water buckets in isolation area (tip: label with red tape)
- Work with the isolated horse last each day & wash your hands before & after

**CAUTION  
QUARANTINE  
AREA**

YOU MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO DO EVERYTHING BUT DO SOMETHING – IT IS WORTH IT – A LITTLE COULD GO A LONG WAY. SICK HORSES COST MONEY AND CAUSE STRESS TO YOU AND YOUR HORSE.



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