

Equine Influenza Virus Fact Sheet

Equine Influenza is a highly contagious upper respiratory viral infection.

Common clinical signs include:

High fever (Normal rectal temperature for horse = 99.5 – 101.5F)

Dry, non-productive cough (can persist for as long as 3 weeks)

Lethargy, depression, anorexia

Nasal discharge

Treatment

REST – Recommend 1 week of rest per day of fever (typically 3-4 weeks total)

Supportive care as needed

Anti-inflammatories (Banamine)

Fluids (oral, IV)

Decrease stress – Avoid shipping/travel , strenuous exercise

Address secondary complications if present

Signs may include: fever > 5 days, respiratory difficulty, muscle soreness/stiffness, limb swelling, persistent anorexia/lethargy

Secondary complications are more likely to develop in horses that do not receive sufficient rest

Prognosis = GOOD

*****PLEASE MINIMIZE THE SPREAD OF THIS DISEASE TO OTHER HORSES/BARN*****

Avoid sharing equipment (tack, grooming supplies, etc)

Avoid contact with horses other than your own

VOLUNTARY QUARANTINE

ALL BOARDERS SHOULD AVOID CONTACT WITH OTHER HORSES OR TRAVEL TO ANY OTHER FACILITY UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

Even horses not showing clinical signs of disease may shed or transmit the virus to other horses

Vaccination does not guarantee prevention/protection from this particular disease – it may only reduce the severity of symptoms

Please contact your veterinarian if your horse shows signs of influenza infection

