

BIOSECURITY INFORMATION – FEI Veterinary Department

These basic measures will safeguard the horse population within an establishment. We also recommend that you take part in the free online biosecurity courses on the veterinary section of FEI Campus: <https://campus.fei.org/>

Vital Health Signs

A normal healthy horse would have the following set of vital signs:

- **Temperature 36.5-38.5C**
- **Breathing rate 8-15 breaths/min**
- **Heart rate 25-45 beats/min**

General Health Examinations

- **Look for eye or nose discharges**
- **Observe how the horse is standing**
- **Check for consistency and number of droppings**
- **Check consumption from water buckets and feed bowl**
- **Assess horse's general appearance**

We recommend that you keep the records in a diary and that rectal temperatures are taken twice daily.

Biosecurity

1. Isolate new arrivals for a period of 10 days or introduce horses from properties with a known high health status only. Isolate and pay particular attention to horses from sales/competition complexes, from unknown mixed population properties and those that have used commercial horse transport servicing mixed populations.
2. Verify the vaccine status of new arrivals.
3. Keep records of horse movements so that contacts can be traced in the event of a disease outbreak.
4. Regularly clean and disinfect stables between different horses and also clean and disinfect equipment and horse transport between journeys. Remember to remove as much organic material as possible before disinfection.

5. Maintain good perimeter security for your premises and maintain controlled access for vehicles and visitors.
6. Ensure that everyone understands the hygiene principles. This includes visitors and service providers such as veterinarians, farriers and physiotherapists.
7. Eliminate the use of communal water sources. Instruct staff not to lower the hose into the water when filling water buckets.
8. Horse specific equipment (feed and water buckets, head collars etc.) should be clearly marked as belonging to an individual horse and only be used on that horse.
9. Any shared equipment (lead ropes, bits/bridles, twitches, thermometers, grooming kits etc.) should be cleaned of organic debris and disinfected between horses.
10. Equipment that cannot be properly disinfected (like sponges or brushes) should not be shared between horses.
11. Cloth items such as stable rubbers, towels, bandages etc. should be laundered and thoroughly dried between each use. Disinfectant may have to be used as part of the rinse cycle.
12. Isolate horses at the first sign of sickness until an infectious or contagious disease has been ruled out.
13. Contact your veterinary surgeon if any of your horses show clinical signs of sickness.
14. Do not move sick horses except for isolation, veterinary treatment or under veterinary supervision. Attend to sick horses last (i.e., feed, water and treat) or use separate staff.
15. Provide hand washing facilities and hand disinfection gel for everyone handling horses and provide separate protective clothing and footwear for those handling and treating sick horses.
16. The isolation/quarantine unit should have a changing area for staff so that clothing and footwear worn in the restricted area are not worn elsewhere.
17. Barrier clothing, waterproof footwear and disposable gloves should be used when working with sick and in-contact horses and after use they should be disposed of or laundered and disinfected.
18. When using disinfectants, always follow the instructions on the label. Select a disinfectant that is approved by your national veterinary authority (or equivalent official organ) and chose from the general order disinfectants that have documented effectiveness in the presence of 10% organic matter, works in the water hardness of the locale and is safe to use in the environment of horses and people.

19. Stables, feed mangers and yards/paddocks should be kept clean, free of standing water and thoroughly scrubbed and cleansed with an appropriate detergent/disinfectant after use and then allowed to dry.
20. Take care when using pressure washers as those set at greater than 120psi can produce aerosols that spread infectious agents through the air.

The FEI Veterinary Department would like to acknowledge the British Equestrian Federation for its work on this document.