

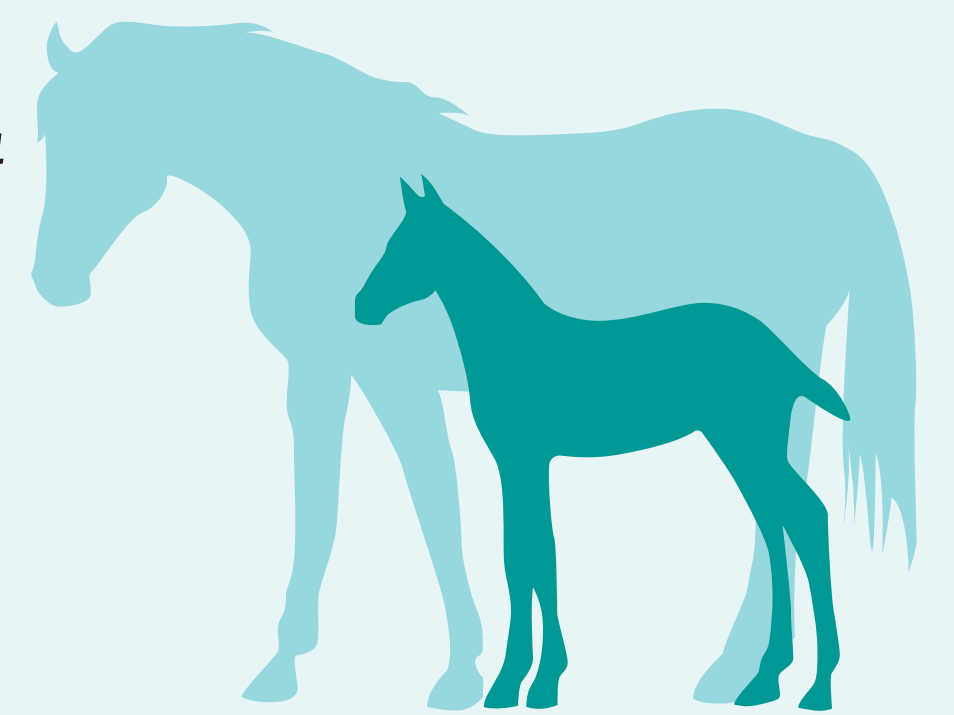
EQUINE HERPESVIRUS TYPE 4 (EHV-4)

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



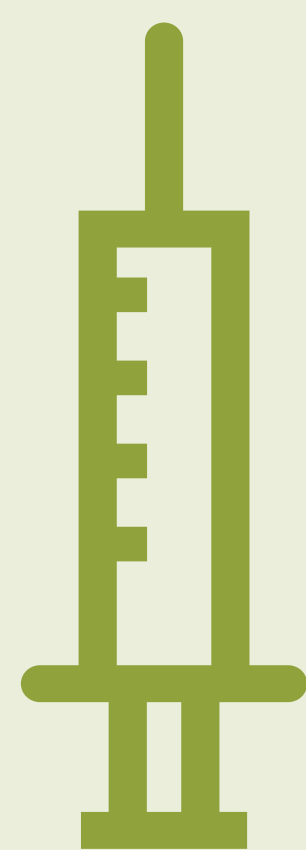
Treatment and Recovery

- 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



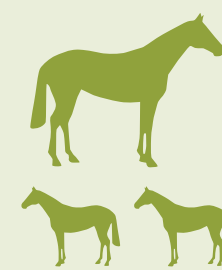
VACCINATION IS THE #1 WAY TO PROTECT YOUR HORSE AGAINST EHV-4

- 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**
- 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)
- Isolate any horse with elevated temperature and/or occurrence of unprovoked coughing
- 6. Do not share** tack, water buckets, feed sources, etc.
- 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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