

# Equine Influenza Quick Facts

Equine influenza virus (EIV) – or equine flu – is one of the most common and contagious infectious upper respiratory diseases in the horse. It spreads rapidly with clinical signs appearing within 24 to 72 hours following exposure. A coughing horse can propel equine influenza virus more than 50 yards and shed virus for 7 to 10 days following infection.

THE VIRUS CAN SURVIVE

**72**  
Hours on wet surfaces

**48**  
Hours on dry surfaces

INDIRECT TRANSMISSION

Indirect transmission can occur via hands, clothing, vehicles and trailers, stalls, and common use articles such as brushes, buckets and bits



HANDS TRAILERS STALLS BUCKETS



RECOVERY TIME

Equine flu requires significant recovery time

- at least three weeks, and up to six months, depending on severity

**3 WEEKS to 6 MONTHS**

WATCH FOR

## These Signs

- ⚠️ Fever (102.5° to 106.5° F)
- ⚠️ Frequent dry cough
- ⚠️ Nasal discharge
- ⚠️ Lethargy
- ⚠️ Anorexia
- ⚠️ Possible secondary bacterial pneumonia



GET TO KNOW

## The Terminology

### CLADE

A group of organisms with a common ancestor

- In the case of equine influenza, clade is used to describe recently isolated viruses (or strains) of equine influenza that belong to the same family
  - Current equine flu strains belong to either the Florida clade 1 or clade 2 families
  - **Clade 1** primarily circulates in the United States
  - **Clade 2** predominantly circulates in Europe (important for horses traveling internationally)

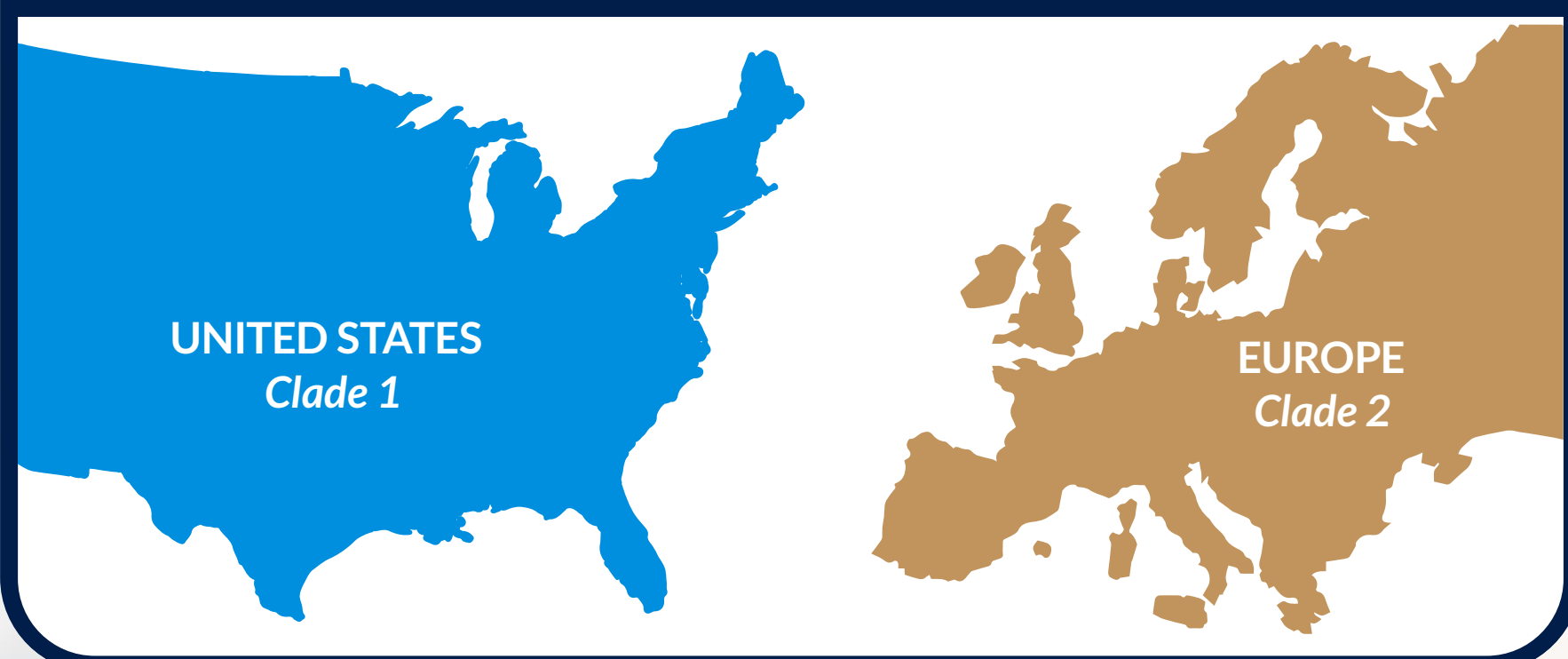
### STRAIN

Strains are identified by place and date of first isolation (e.g., Florida '13). Additional or more current strains may be added to a vaccine to provide additional or enhanced protection.

**H3N8 (A2):** The subtype of equine influenza A virus (first identified in Florida in 1963) circulating in horses today

### ANTIGENIC DRIFT

Mutations in the equine influenza virus that lead to new strains. The primary reason equine flu vaccines are periodically updated.



IMPORTANCE OF

## Updated Flu Strains

Similar to human flu vaccines, equine flu vaccines must be updated to protect against the strains currently threatening horses.

Continued changes in circulating strains of equine flu in the U.S. has resulted in numerous reports of influenza outbreaks over the past several years, even in well-vaccinated horses.

Only Prestige® vaccines feature the most current equine influenza protection available, including: Florida '13 Clade 1 & Richmond '07 Clade 2, in addition to KY '02.



**Vaccination + Biosecurity is Best!**

VACCINATION IS THE #1 WAY TO

## Protect Your Horse

- Equine flu season typically peaks from December to April, but can occur any time of year
- Horses at greatest risk should be revaccinated at 6-month intervals<sup>1</sup>
  - 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

<sup>1</sup>AAEP Risk-Based Vaccination Guidelines (www.aaep.org)

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

[www.equinediseasecc.org/disease-information](http://www.equinediseasecc.org/disease-information)  
[www.aaep.org/guidelines](http://www.aaep.org/guidelines)  
[www.aphis.usda.gov](http://www.aphis.usda.gov)

Talk to your veterinarian today to ensure your horse is receiving current influenza protection. For more information, visit [www.merck-animal-health-equine.com](http://www.merck-animal-health-equine.com).



BE SURE IT'S RIGHT FOR YOU.

## The Science of Healthier Animals