

AERC Guidelines for controlling Vesicular Stomatitis Virus

Vesicular stomatitis (VS) is a viral disease of horses and other animals. Infection results in vesicles (blisters), crusts, and ulceration of the lips, muzzle, nose, tongue, ears, sheath, teats, and/or coronary band. Transmission is predominantly by black flies, sand flies, and biting midges. The virus is in the active lesion, thus animals with active lesions can transmit the virus by direct contact, shared feed/water sources, and other carriers contaminated by infective lesions, vesicular fluid, and/or saliva. The lesions are self-limiting and typically resolve within 14 days. Humans can be infected from exposure to this virus and have mild flu-like symptoms.

We live in a world of equine infectious disease events which are often outside of our control. Thus, we must make adjustments to best support competitions while protecting our equine athletes through the implementation of necessary biosecurity measures. **AERC supports continuing competitions in VSV Affected States and competitions which include horses from VSV Affected States and Counties provided the biosecurity measures listed below are implemented.**

- 1) Horses originating from an Affected County should have a current health certificate issued within seven days of entering the ride venue. This certificate must include this VSV specific statement: *"I have examined all the animals identified on this certificate within seven (7) days of shipment date and found them to be free from signs of Vesicular Stomatitis (VS). During the last fourteen (14) days, these animals have not been exposed to VS nor located on a VS confirmed or a VS suspected premises."*
- 2) Horses originating from an Affected County should be camped in a restricted area and examined upon arrival of the first ride veterinarian on site. Once examined and determined to be free of VS clinical signs, no further restrictions will apply. Any horses with clinical signs of VS should be immediately isolated.

Definition of Affected County: a county which has had USDA vesicular stomatitis confirmed or suspect premises within the last 30 days under quarantine for VS. 30 days from such time that the last premise within a county has been released from quarantine, that county will be removed from the Affected County list.

For the complete California Department of Food and Agriculture VSV Situation Report visit:

https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/ahfss/Animal_Health/VS.html

For the complete USDA Vesicular Stomatitis Situation Report: visit

<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-disease-information/cattle-disease-information/vesicular-stomatitis-info>

For any questions or further information, please contact the AERC Veterinary Committee:

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