



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES
COMMISSIONER NICOLE “NIKKI” FRIED

EHV-1 Confirmed Cases and Quarantine Information

April 22, 2021

THIS ANNOUNCEMENT WILL BE UPDATED AS ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IS CONFIRMED AND AS INVESTIGATION RESULTS RETURN.

Updates:

All EHV-1 quarantines in Florida have been released. To date, there are no known epidemiological links between each of the cases. The Division of Animal Industry encourages all horse owners to review the biosecurity information at the end of this announcement.

Palm Beach County

A horse has tested positive for Equine Herpes Virus (EHV)-1 neurotrophic strain. The horse has no known links to either of the previous Florida cases. The horse is being treated at a hospital facility but has not developed neurologic signs. All exposed horses at the Winter Equestrian Festival (Tent 17) have been quarantined. This horse was isolated as soon as it was observed to be febrile. Increased biosecurity was instituted at Tent 17 immediately after the positive test results were received on April 2, 2021. The Division of Animal Industry issued a quarantine on the premises and increased biosecurity measures are have been implemented.

The Division of Animal Industry released the quarantine at the primary premises on April 21, 2021 after all horses at the facility met the release criteria. One horse remains under quarantine and isolated at a veterinary facility.

Duval County

A single horse with neurological signs was reported by a private veterinary practitioner in Duval County on March 28, 2021. Test results completed March 30, 2021, were positive for EHV-1. The horse is currently being treated at a separate isolation facility. [The horse has recovered.](#) A second febrile horse on the premises has tested positive for EHV-1, but currently has no neurologic signs.

The Division of Animal Industry [released the quarantine on April 17, 2021 after all horses at the facility met the release criteria.](#)

Marion County

The Marion County premises, which had two positive EHV-1 horses, was released from quarantine on March 29, 2021 after 24 days with no horses exhibiting fever or other clinical signs of disease. The Marion Country premises had one horses that displayed neurological signs and was reported by a private veterinary practitioner in, on March 1, 2021. The horse subsequently tested positive for the EHV-1, neurotrophic strain.

A second horse stalled immediately adjacent to the index horse while at the farm was confirmed positive for EHV-1, on March 4, 2021. This second horse has not exhibited neurologic symptoms, although it was febrile. This horse has three subsequent negative tests and has returned back to the index premises.

The Marion County index horse was housed at the World Equestrian Center (WEC) Barn D during week 7 (February 17 – 21, 2021), and the second horse was housed in Barn D during week 8 (February 24 – 28, 2021). The second horse left the World Equestrian Center on February 25, 2021. The Division of Animal Industry continues to strongly recommend horse owners and trainers enact strict biosecurity measures for horses that may have been stabled at WEC during the above dates. Biosecurity measures are key to preventing the spread of EHV-1 and can effectively break the cycle of transmission of the virus. Please see biosecurity resources below.

Animal Disease Information

Additional movement requirements or restrictions have **not** been imposed by the State of Florida however, other states and venues are enacting additional movement requirements. We are advising horse owners, trainers and veterinarians to contact the state and/or venue of destination for any additional movement requirements prior to travel. In light of the recent EHV-1 outbreak in Europe, we are encouraging all facilities to isolate horses importing into Florida from the affected regions in Europe. EHV-1 has been identified in numerous states over recent weeks. These cases have no known associations with the Florida cases, but some have links to other equestrian events.

We are asking all those in the equine community to practice prudent biosecurity on their farm and to report any suspected cases of EHV-1. For reporting, call (850) 410-0900 Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. and 1-800-342-5869 after hours and weekends or email RAD@FDACS.gov.

The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) will continue to work with the affected premises management, owners, and veterinarians to ensure proper safeguards are taken to prevent further spread of the disease.

Please continue to visit www.FDACS.gov/ai for current information regarding this incident.

Additional Resources

More information on the Equine Herpes Virus (EHV-1) can be found at the following Websites:

- American Association of Equine Practitioners,
www.aaep.org/info/horse-health?publication=753
<https://aaep.org/guidelines/infectious-disease-control>
- Gluck Equine Research Center, University of Kentucky,
<http://www.ca.uky.edu/gluck/BiblioEHV1.asp>

- UF Large Animal Hospital, Frequently Asked Questions Regarding Equine Herpesvirus <https://largeanimal.vethospitals.ufl.edu/frequently-asked-questions-regarding-equine-herpesvirus/#outbreak>
- University of Florida, College of Veterinary Medicine,
<http://extension.vetmed.ufl.edu/files/2012/02/EHV-June-2011.pdf>
- United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA, APHIS),
<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-disease-information/equine/ehv/equine-herpesvirus>
- FDACS
 - EHV-1 informational page, <https://www.fdacs.gov/Consumer-Resources/Animals/Animal-Diseases/Florida-s-Reportable-Equine-Disease-Map/Equine-Herpesvirus-1>
 - EHV-1 Guidance Document,
https://www.fdacs.gov/content/download/96442/file/EHM_Guidance_Document_Revised_2018.pdf
- Interstate Movement Requirements,
www.InterstateLivestock.com
www.animalregs.com/