

## USPC Equine and Human Biosecurity Guide

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## PURPOSE

The purpose of this document is to assist USPC function organizing committees in identifying potential human and equine disease risks at an event venue and in developing a biosecurity and infectious disease prevention and control plans to protect the health of participants and mounts. In this document the terms, “event” and “function” both refer to any Pony Club camp, lesson, rally or other organized gathering in which USPC site insurance is applicable. This document provides guidance for the assessment and development of event and venue specific plans that address the specific identified disease risks of the function and venue.

## WHAT IS BIOSECURITY?

All people and animals entering a venue are a potential source of infectious disease agents. Biosecurity includes preventive measures designed to reduce the risks for introduction and transmission of an infectious diseases. The development and implementation of human and equine biosecurity plans is an essential responsibility of any organizing group. Infectious disease pathogens may be brought to and spread by people, mounts, other domestic animals, vehicles, equipment, insects, ticks, birds, rodents and other wildlife, feed, waste and water. During an event both the participants and mounts experience additional stress. Which can adversely affect their immune system making them more susceptible to infectious diseases. Environmental factors including air temperature, wind and humidity all affect the spread of infectious diseases. Properly implemented biosecurity measures help reduce the likely hood of disease transmission.

## BIOSECURITY CONSIDERATIONS

Consider mounts, trailers, tack and equipment, visitors, pets, concessions, bicycles and golf carts, feed and bedding delivery systems, tractors and farrier or other vendor vehicles as biosecurity risks. The greatest risk for contagious disease spread is direct person-to-person and mount-to-mount contact. Body fluids, such as respiratory secretions, sweat, material from the nostrils and contaminated equipment, water buckets, tack, clothing, personnel, vehicles, mosquitoes, ticks and flies can be vectors for disease transmission. Biosecurity measures should target these various methods of transmission to prevent the spread of disease.

### Methods of Transmission

Understanding how diseases spread is vital in creating a plan to reduce transmission. The following methods are applicable for both human and equine transmission of diseases.

**Aerosol:** Droplets containing a disease agent are passed through the air from one infected individual to another susceptible individual. The ability of a pathogen to survive and be effectively transmitted by aerosol depends upon stocking density, temperature, ventilation, humidity and dust. Respiratory diseases, can spread quickly and often others are exposed before the first individual is diagnosed.

**Oral:** Oral transfer of pathogens occurs through the direct ingestion of contaminated food and water, or through oral contact by licking objects and the use of shared tack and wipe rags.

**Direct:** A susceptible animal may have direct exposure when the disease agent directly touches an open wound, mucus membrane or skin. The infectious disease agent can be passed from an infected animal to a susceptible animal through contact with saliva, nose-to-nose contact, rubbing and biting.

**Fomite:** A fomite is an inanimate object that may be contaminated by an infectious organism and serve in disease transmission. Virtually any object can serve as a fomite including clothing, utensils, equipment, water buckets, tack, hoses, bedding, etc.

**Vector:** Vector borne diseases are those which involve the transmission of an infectious disease agent by biological vectors such as mosquitoes, ticks and flies. It is important to understand and recognize potential routes of disease agent transmission to develop disease control measures that target potential transmission routes.

## Human Entry Requirements

Remind participants if they are not feeling well they should not attend the event. This is the first step in reducing disease transmission. During outbreaks or peak seasons (i.e., flu season), all participants should be reminded to monitor for a fever (above 100.4° F/38° C) and symptoms of disease.

## Animal Entry Requirements

The primary animal entry requirements include allowing healthy animals only and requiring specific vaccinations. While these restrictions apply to any animal coming onto the facility (equine, dog, etc.) we will be focusing on equine.

By restricting facility entry to healthy animals only, you are proactively keeping potentially diseased animals off the facility. Ideally, staff should observe mounts upon arrival to confirm animal identification, check health documents and observe mounts for general signs of good health. Most locations in the U.S. require Coggins tests and certificate of veterinary inspection (CVI) for transportation. Your event requirements should include any state, local and facility requirements for proof of healthy animals.

A less common requirement of vaccination records is gaining traction in the equine industry. Currently all USEF competitions require proof of the Equine Influenza and Equine Herpes vaccinations within six months prior to entering the competition grounds. Again, your event requirements should include any state, local, and facility requirements.

The United States Pony Clubs, Inc. does not currently implement any national healthy animal requirements or vaccinations. Any USPC function must always follow state, local, facility and other connected organization requirements.

## Cleaning and Disinfection Procedures

Bacteria, viruses and parasites may remain viable on surfaces and in any areas that humans or animals (including mounts) come in contact with. Therefore, review facility cleaning protocols to ensure frequent and proper cleaning and disinfecting to reduce potential exposure to disease agents.

## Isolation Area

While the need for an isolation area may not be necessary for one day events, consideration should always be given for designating an isolation area for use as necessary during the event. The isolation should be as far as possible away from the public and general mount traffic areas. The external perimeter of the isolation area should be secure and clearly marked with adequate signage designating it as a restricted area. If no suitable permanent stabling is available onsite for an isolation area, consider an area on the grounds to set up a temporary pen structure or an offsite facility for isolation. Optimal isolation stabling has non-porous flooring and is in an area where run off will not occur. Ideally, the isolation area will have water and electricity. Plans for a quick set up and implementation of the isolation plans should be in place. Also, determine the location of a veterinary clinic/hospital that can treat mounts if a referral is needed.

## Water Source and Disposal

Shared water sources can result in risks for pathogen spread. Communal water sources have a higher risk of potential disease transmission. Requiring individuals to bring their own water buckets to fill from a water faucet will lower disease transmission risk. Water hoses, although helpful, have the potential to spread disease if inserted into multiple buckets or left lying on the ground between uses. Natural water sources, such as streams or ponds, also pose a significant disease risk due to an inability to control water quality or prevent contamination with disease agents. Contamination of natural water sources can be due to wildlife, fecal material, urine and environmental toxins; thus, the use of natural water sources should be avoided. Proper water disposal is important for disease control since used water or remnant water in buckets have the potential to carry respiratory pathogens and also serve as a breeding ground for mosquitoes. Evaluate water disposal methods to ensure that water buckets are emptied directly into a drain or onto manure piles to eliminate disease agent transmission risk.

## Stabling

The key component when evaluating the biosecurity risk of the stabling area, is assessing the contact between mounts, humans and other animals. Additionally, evaluate the ventilation and air flow to ensure adequate air circulation, which aids in reducing potential exposure to respiratory disease pathogens or ammonia. Mounts in stables with stall doors facing outward have lower disease risk due to better air circulation.

## Manure Disposal

Infectious disease organisms may be shed and remain viable in manure. Handle manure as a risk material, especially when there is an infectious disease outbreak. Evaluate manure and waste disposal protocols to determine the location of manure piles in relation to vehicle and foot traffic, mount stabling areas, pastures and surface water. Evaluate the frequency and scheduling of manure removal from the collection point to ensure that procedures for prompt removal are in place.

## Traffic Control

Vehicles entering the venue may carry infectious disease pathogens on their tires or undercarriage. Evaluate vehicle traffic flow to determine if vehicles should be prohibited from the mount traffic areas. Also evaluate the adequacy of signage for designated vehicle traffic routes and parking areas for exhibitors, haulers, and visitors.

# FACILITY ASSESSMENT AND CREATING A BIOSECURITY PLAN

Disease risks are inherent when humans and animals come together. Complete elimination of all disease risks is not possible so organizers must determine the acceptable level of disease risk for their event. Working with veterinarians and stakeholders they should develop an event biosecurity plan that includes prevention policies and control procedures in the instance of an outbreak to attain the needed level of biosecurity.

The first step in creating a biosecurity plan is doing a facility assessment. Once you understand the facility your plan should include putting prevention policies in place for participants and their mounts to be healthy upon their arrival at the facility. A sample facility assessment check list is included in Appendix I.

Following the biosecurity risk assessment, organizers should develop an event biosecurity plan which includes:

- Communication Plan
- Infectious Disease Prevention Policies
- Infectious Disease Control Plan
- Setting up a Mount Isolation Area

Disease prevention policies work to reduce the likelihood of ill individuals or mounts entering the facility. Even if there is no known ongoing disease threat, basic biosecurity is still necessary. If, however, a disease threat is known to be in the geographic area of the event, it is advisable to institute additional biosecurity measures.

Creating infectious disease control plans before the event starts allows for prompt implementation of controls during an infectious disease outbreak. At the first potential sign of an ill mount or infectious disease outbreak, the infectious disease control plan may be immediately implemented.

Successful implementation of the biosecurity plan relies on organizing staff, participants, officials and spectators understanding and complying with the policies and procedures of the plan. The following are recommendations and as an organizer you may add additional requirements for event participation. Ideally elements of the biosecurity plan should be incorporated in procedures of the event, communicated to all individuals in the entry paperwork and prominently displayed with signage at the event.

## Communication Plan

For successful implementation, the event biosecurity plan must be adequately communicated to participants, the general public and the event staff. Include biosecurity prevention policies in entry information. and outline an outbreak communication plan notify organizing staff, participants, and attendees in the event of an incident. Consider incorporating several communication modalities to ensure rapid, unified messaging to a large audience. Contact information for other individuals who may be able to assist during an infectious disease outbreak should be organized and readily available. Notification of all affected parties with clear, concise and accurate messages about a situation, the measures being taken and the procedures for participants to follow is critical to prevent the spread of disease and panic among participants and the general mount-owning public.

## Recommendations for Infectious Disease Prevention Policies

**Only Healthy Participants:** Only individuals not showing obvious clinical signs of disease, such as a fever (above 100.4°F for a designated time period, i.e., the 48 hours immediately before arrival at the event), copious nasal discharge, or persistent frequent coughing. During health outbreaks, participants should monitor their temperatures prior to arrival and during the event.

**Cleaning and Disinfection Stations:** Handwashing and sanitizing stations in restroom facilities are the standard. The addition of strategically placed handwashing and sanitizing stations can reduce spread throughout the premises.

**Vector Control Program:** Vector borne diseases are those in which transmission of a pathogen is by a vector, such as mosquitoes, ticks, fleas and flies. Elimination of standing water, manure piles, tall weeds and brush are some methods for controlling insects and ticks. During the event, recommend application of topical insect repellent for mounts at the event.

**Post Adequate Biosecurity Signage:** Clearly communicate biosecurity measures to participants before and during the event. Place appropriate signage around the grounds to remind participants of expected compliance with biosecurity measures. Barn signage should target biosecurity practices to prevent animal- to-animal contact, equipment sharing and feed contamination. Show ground signs should target parking and access areas, hand washing/ sanitization stations and policies for dogs. Wash stall signage should discourage

mount-to-mount contact, sharing of equipment and direct mount contact with hoses. Adequate signage for traffic flow on designated routes to parking areas for participants, vendors, haulers, and visitors is also essential to minimize risks of disease introduction.

**Medical Device Use and Disposal:** Needles and syringes used to administer medications at an event pose a safety hazard and potential disease transmission risk. Appropriate medical waste disposal protocols should be implemented which includes proper needle disposal into sharps containers and medical waste removal of full sharps containers.

**Restrict Dog Movement:** Dogs moving freely around mounts present a danger to mounts and riders and may carry infectious diseases from one location to another on the premises. Prohibiting dogs on the premises or restricting access to only dogs on leashes controlled by a person may improve safety and significantly reduce risks of disease transmission. If leashed dogs are permitted on the premises, they should be restricted from the stabling and feed storage areas. The event staff should have instructions for managing incidents of dogs found in restricted areas, off leash or freely roaming the premises.

## Equine Specific Policies

**Only Healthy Mounts:** Only mounts not showing obvious clinical signs of disease, such as a fever (above 102°F for a designated time period, i.e., the 48 hours immediately before arrival at the event), copious nasal discharge, persistent frequent coughing or neurologic signs, such as ataxia or marked hind limb weakness (wobbly gait).

**Require a Coggins Test:** Require all mounts to provide a negative Coggins Test dated from within the last 12 months. Most states require owners to have a Coggins Test anytime they are transporting mounts.

**Require a Health Certificate:** Require all mounts to have a certificate of veterinary inspection (CVI) also known as a health certificate. The time frame of the CVI is recommended to be issued within seven (7) days of arrival at the venue, but may differ based on facility, local and state requirements.

**Require Specific Vaccinations:** Dependent on if your event is run in conjunction with a USEF event and/or facility requirements. There may be some required vaccinations for any mounts attending the competition.

**Mount Examination:** Some facilities may require all mounts be examined by event officials or state animal health officials upon arrival. All participants agree to fully cooperate with event officials and abide by their decisions/instructions. Failing to comply shall be grounds for immediate expulsion of the participant from the grounds and potential disciplinary action by organization, local/state or federal animal health officials.

**No Non-Compete Mounts:** Equine entry to the premises should be restricted to only those equines participating in the event.

**Mount Temperature Monitoring:** A requirement for monitoring mount temperatures daily is an easy, efficient, early disease detection tool. Temperatures taken immediately after transport or exercise may be temporarily elevated, so the initial temperature monitoring should be after the mount is settled in the stable. A mount rectal body temperature over 102°F should be immediately reported to a designated event official. Mounts with rectal body temperatures between 101°F and 102°F should be monitored for other signs of disease and have their temperature retaken in one (1) hour.

**Report Suspicion of Sick Mounts:** The stress of travel and the stress of an event may result in a mount becoming clinically ill and displaying clinical signs of a disease during the event. Provide all participants the protocol to report a sick mount to organizers. Participants should understand that upon receipt of a report of a sick mount, the designated event official will evaluate the situation to determine what control measures are necessary.

Normal health parameters for an adult mount include a temperature of less than 101°F, a resting heart rate of 28-44 beats per minute and a resting respiratory rate of 10-24 breaths per minute. Transient clinical signs, such as a slight increase in body temperature or loose manure, may occur due to the stress of shipping and adjusting to a new environment. These clinical signs may or may not be cause for alarm; however, they may be signs of an infectious disease. General recommendations to consider for designation as a response trigger point would be detection of a mount:

- With a body temperature more than 102°F
- That is ataxic or recumbent
- That is demonstrating either aggressive behavior or stupor
- With profuse diarrhea
- With oral or coronary band vesicular or ulcerative lesions

An adult mount with a body temperature between 101°F and 101.9°F should be monitored for other signs of disease and have the temperature retaken in one hour.

**Limit Human-to-Mount Contact:** Human contact with multiple mounts should be avoided. Event officials/volunteers required to contact multiple mounts should, at a minimum, be required to perform hand hygiene procedures (hand washing or use of an alcohol-based sanitizing product) between each mount. When bit inspection is mandatory, the official conducting the inspection should use and change disposable gloves or use hand sanitizer between each mount inspection. Visitors should not be permitted to contact mounts without washing hands or using hand sanitizer immediately before and after the contact.

**Limit Barn Access:** Limiting the number of people with access to the barn area supports minimizing the spread of disease through human traffic.

## Recommendations for an Infectious Disease Control Plan

**Delegation of Responsibility:** The control plan should specifically name individuals for assigned tasks during an outbreak response. Before the event, designate a single person responsible for control of the situation during an infectious disease outbreak at the event. Clearly communicate the assignments in advance of the event to ensure that individuals have time to read and understand their responsibility. The plan should also clearly articulate a timeline for actions to occur during a disease outbreak.

**Isolation of Sick Mounts:** The immediate isolation of potentially ill or sick mounts is essential for prevention of disease spread. Restrict isolation area to the minimum number of individuals to provide needed care for the mount. Optimally, these people would not handle any other mounts on the premises or have access to any other areas of the premises.

The designated event official, who is to receive reports of illness, should have the authority and responsibility to immediately take necessary actions, such as enactment of an isolation plan to remove the suspect mount from the general population of mounts at the event.

**Exposure Assessment of All Mounts:** A biosecurity plan requires a mechanism to assess the exposure risk of all mounts on the property. Knowledge of the location and activities of the sick mount(s) before the onset of clinical signs is essential for determining the exposure risk of other mounts. In general, a mount which had direct contact (nose-to-nose, fence line) with a sick mount would be a high-risk animal and a mount which may have had indirect contact (communal water trough, shared wash rack, shared equipment, common personnel, etc.) with a sick mount would be a medium-risk animal. Any mount which had no direct or indirect contact with a sick mount would be a low-risk animal. Exposure assessments may vary based on the disease agents involved in the outbreak. A veterinarian can assist in the exposure designations based on the disease agent and the facility layout.

**Monitoring Exposed Mounts Onsite:** Plan to continually monitor all mounts which remain onsite for signs of disease. Institute strict biosecurity measures for each remaining mount to include isolation, cleaning and disinfection of all equipment, no sharing of equipment (if equipment must be shared, clean and disinfect it between use) and hand washing or use of hand sanitizer by individuals between mount contacts. Procedures similar to those used in isolation go a long way toward ensuring no further disease spread among exposed mounts. Plan for staff to make routine visits around the stabling area to enhance compliance with biosecurity procedures.

**Humans in Contact with Sick Mounts:** Individuals with direct contact with sick mounts should be advised to take biosecurity measures of blowing their nose, hand washing, cleaning and disinfecting boots, changing clothing and potentially showering before contacting other mounts or people on the premises.

**Feed and Bedding Delivery:** The plan should include feedstore contact information to arrange for feed and bedding delivery if mounts are held on the premises for more than twelve (12) hours. Event management staff should assess the potential feed and bedding needs on the premises and consider necessary arrangements for a single delivery to a designated area. To minimize disease spread on the event grounds, designate personnel to be responsible for the delivery of the feed to the barns.

**Release of Mounts from Ground:** If a sick mount is identified during the event, consult with a veterinarian about any reporting requirements and restrictions of mount movements for other mounts.

**Cleaning and Disinfection:** Once an outbreak is controlled and all mounts have been permitted to be moved from the premises, the entire premises must be cleaned and disinfected. Work with the facility and a veterinarian to determine the best plan of action for cleaning and disinfecting the facility.

**Euthanasia of a Mount and Carcass Handling:** The ideal location for euthanasia of a mount is a remote area of the facility grounds, accessible to large equipment or trucks, with no public access. The Safety and Crisis Plan should include contact information for a rendering truck or dead hauler, who can remove a carcass from the premises. For biosecurity reasons, the route for a rendering truck or dead hauler on and off the event premises should not cross any mount or exhibitor areas. A necropsy of any mount that dies or is euthanized is strongly recommended.

**Disciplinary Policies:** It is essential everyone on the event grounds comply with the infectious disease control measures to prevent disease spread during an outbreak. Before the event determine what disciplinary actions will be taken against individuals who fail to comply with necessary disease control measures.



# APPENDIX I

## FACILITY RISK ASSESSMENT

Disease risk cannot be completely eliminated from any event. While the ideal event occurs with only minimal biosecurity risk, it is unlikely to be possible. Evaluating the facility and event based on the following parameters gives organizers to opportunity to mitigate risk whenever possible.

	<b>Minimal Biosecurity Risk</b>	<b>Medium Biosecurity Risk</b>	<b>High Biosecurity Risk</b>
<b>Biosecurity Plan</b>	Organizers consulted with veterinarian and wrote a specific, detailed biosecurity plan for the specific event and venue.	Organizers developed a general biosecurity plan.	No biosecurity plan developed by organizers.
<b>Competitor Contact Information</b>	Participants current phone number and email address are documented. Mount details and origin is recorded.	Participants current phone number and email address are documented. Mount details unknown.	No contact information or mount details available.
<b>Mount Health Entry Requirement</b>	Coggins and Certificate of Veterinary Inspection required for all mounts and each mount is inspected by event staff upon arrival.	Coggins and Certificate of Veterinary Inspection required for all mounts.	No mount health entry requirements.
<b>Temperature Monitoring</b>	Temperature monitoring of mounts required daily.	Temperature monitoring of mounts by participants is recommended.	No policy for monitoring mount temperatures.
<b>Monitoring of Mount Health</b>	Qualified, knowledgeable event staff inspect every mount upon arrival and periodically monitor mounts for duration of the event.	Event staff conduct random walk through of the barns to monitor health status of mounts.	No designated staff is responsible for monitoring health status of mounts
<b>Event Staff Mount Handling Policy</b>	Event staff are provided strict instructions on handling mounts, including use and change of disposable gloves and use of hand sanitizer between contacts with mounts.	Event staff are asked to use hand sanitizer between contacts with mounts.	There are no policies regarding handling of mounts by event staff.
<b>Visitors</b>	Visitors restricted from barn area except at designated times, no direct contact with mounts is permitted.	Visitors restricted from barn area except at designated times.	There are no restrictions on visitor access to barn area.

<b>Dogs</b>	<b>Dogs are not permitted on the grounds.</b>	<b>Dogs are required to be on a leash at the event.</b>	<b>There are no restrictions for dogs on the grounds.</b>
<b>Event Biosecurity Signage</b>	<b>Adequate signage for parking, restricted access areas and biosecurity measures.</b>	<b>Limited signage for parking, restricted area access and biosecurity measures.</b>	<b>No signage for parking, restricted access areas or biosecurity measures.</b>
<b>Trailer Parking</b>	<b>Restricted trailer parking, monitored and separate from barn area and not accessible by non-participants.</b>	<b>Shared with passenger vehicle parking, but separate from barn area.</b>	<b>Unrestricted parking next to barns and accessible by spectators.</b>
<b>Passenger Vehicle Parking</b>	<b>Restricted passenger vehicle parking, monitored and separate from barn area.</b>	<b>Shared with trailer parking, separate from barn area.</b>	<b>Unrestricted parking.</b>
<b>Number of Stalls</b>	<b>Twice the number of stalls needed.</b>	<b>Some extra stalls.</b>	<b>Exact number of stalls required.</b>
<b>Stall Walls</b>	<b>Solid</b>	<b>Half walls</b>	<b>Bars</b>
<b>Stall Material</b>	<b>Metal</b>	<b>Treated wood (non-porous)</b>	<b>Untreated wood (porous)</b>
<b>Stall Mount-to-Mount Contact</b>	<b>No nose-to-nose contact possible.</b>	<b>Limited nose-to-nose contact possible.</b>	<b>Nose-to-nose contact likely.</b>
<b>Assignment of Stalls</b>	<b>Individually assigned stalls grouped by team, documented individually.</b>	<b>Grouped by team not individually assigned, team stalls noted.</b>	<b>Stalls are not assigned and no stall records are maintained.</b>
<b>Equipment</b>	<b>No sharing of equipment.</b>	<b>Sharing of equipment only within team.</b>	<b>No restrictions - equipment is freely shared.</b>
<b>Feed Storage</b>	<b>Covered hay and sealed containers for feed in a secured area.</b>	<b>Secure storage stall with open feed bags and uncovered hay.</b>	<b>Hay and open feed bags in uncovered barn aisle way.</b>
<b>Water Sources</b>	<b>Individual Water Buckets in Use</b>	<b>Stream or Large Water Source</b>	<b>Communal Water Area</b>
<b>Hose Contact with Mount</b>	<b>Mount never makes direct contact with hose.</b>	<b>Mount makes limited direct contact with hose.</b>	<b>Mount has direct contact with hose.</b>
<b>Hose Placement</b>	<b>Hose is hung on wall after each use.</b>	<b>Hose is sometimes hung after use.</b>	<b>Hose is left lying on the ground.</b>
<b>Separation of Feed and Manure Handling Equipment</b>	<b>Complete separation of feed and manure handling equipment.</b>	<b>Limited separation of feed and manure handling equipment</b>	<b>Feed, hay and manure handling equipment stored together.</b>
<b>Fecal Material</b>	<b>Removed Immediately.</b>	<b>Removed throughout the day.</b>	<b>Removed at the end of the event.</b>
<b>Exercise/Competition Area</b>	<b>No shared exercise areas: All mounts exercise independently.</b>	<b>Shared exercise area with minimal possible direct mount-to-mount contact.</b>	<b>Shared exercise area with direct mount-to-mount contact.</b>

<b>Isolation Location</b>	<b>Available designated empty barn isolated away from all other exhibitor stalls.</b>	<b>One empty barn at the end of the barns.</b>	<b>A few stalls available at one end of show barn housing mounts.</b>
<b>Isolation Access</b>	<b>Limited to isolation personnel only, no participant or spectator access.</b>	<b>Limited to isolation personnel and participant access.</b>	<b>No ability to restrict access.</b>
<b>Isolation Vehicle Access</b>	<b>Restricted vehicle access with monitoring at entrance.</b>	<b>Restricted vehicle access with no monitoring of entrance.</b>	<b>No restrictions or monitoring of vehicle access.</b>

## APPENDIX II

### MOUNT ISOLATION AREA

Any mount with a diagnosis or suspicion of an infectious disease should immediately be isolated from other mounts to prevent the spread of infection. It is also important to prevent exposure by indirect contact from those handling an infected mount and spreading the infection to other mounts via touching, equipment and so forth.

An effective isolation area:

- Is reserved ONLY for use by infectious disease suspects and is not used by other mounts at any time.
- Is well separated from other barns and main human and equine traffic contact.
- Is contained and movement by people in and out, regulated and controlled.
- Has each stall isolated and prevents direct contact with mounts adjacent to each other.
- Has cleanable surfaces, including walls and flooring (mats).
- Has dedicated water buckets and separate equipment (wheelbarrows, pitchforks, bedding, etc.) used ONLY by the isolation unit.
- Includes a sink for handwashing and treatment area. Space must be supplied for storage of things needed for biosecurity such as gloves, disposable coveralls, boots, disinfectant, footbath stations (rubber tubs), and garbage collection and holding for disposables used on the mounts. This can be another stall converted into a storage area.
- Has a person to oversee the isolation stall is designated. This individual should have prior training in biosecurity. Their responsibility is to ensure that all activities meet with the biosecurity plan outlined for the facility.
- Has a designated biosecurity supervisor ensures that people allowed to enter the facility follow appropriate sanitation measures: Rubber boots are dipped in a prescribed foot bath; disposable or dedicated coveralls are used only for one mount stall; disposable gloves are worn; and a treatment coat is worn over the reusable coveralls.
- Has the individual shower and change clothes if during treatment of the mount facial or other contamination of the caregiver occurs.
- Have hands washed for 60 seconds (sing "Happy Birthday" twice at normal tempo) before entering or leaving the isolation area. Use disposable towels and leave in a covered waste container at the site of handwashing.
- Has a perimeter is set up around the stall area to limit vehicular traffic and entry. This perimeter could be designated with ropes, fencing used for construction sites, and so forth. Random access should be restricted, with only one entry and exit to the area.
- Have appropriate lighting.

#### Isolation Area Equipment Needs

- Treatment carts or smocks
- Painter's disposable coveralls
- Disposable gloves
- Rubber boots
- Foot bath containers
- Garbage bags
- Garbage cans with secure lids
- Disposable plastic shoe covers

- Thermometer for each mount
- Equipment for each mount (drugs in sealed plastic container for that mount, stomach tube, twitch, lip chain, etc.)

## **Isolation Policies**

- Isolation area is restricted to designated trained individuals only (i.e., biosecurity lead, veterinarian, owners, etc.)
- Only vehicles approved by the biosecurity lead may enter the isolation area.
- No other animals may access the isolation area.
- Feed, equipment and supplies are delivered to the designated area adjacent to the isolation area and hand delivered to the entry of the isolation area as needed.
- Mount(s) in isolation area must remain in the stall unless approved to be taken out of the stall by the biosecurity lead or veterinarian.
- If mounts are removed from isolation stall, their movements must be monitored and feet cleaned before leaving the stall.

## **Mount Isolation Area Procedures**

### **Hand Washing Protocol**

1. Hold a clean, freshly-laundered drying towel or disposable paper towels under arm for use after washing hands.
2. Ideally, use warm or hot running water.
3. Apply antibacterial soap and thoroughly wash all hand surfaces, including the wrists, palms and backs of hands.
4. Vigorously rub all lathered surfaces together for twenty (20) seconds.
5. For complete cleaning, use a nailbrush to clean fingers and under fingernails.
6. Rinse well in a flowing stream of water.
7. Hands that are visibly soiled require additional time to clean properly.
8. When drying hands, begin at the fingertips and work toward elbows, patting, not rubbing, the skin with the towel.
9. Use the towel to cover the faucet when turning off.

### **Isolation Stall Entry Protocol**

1. Prepare supplies and equipment you need.
2. Wash hands before entering the area: frequent hand washing is the most important component in prevention
3. of disease agent spread.
4. Wear designated disposable footwear, coveralls and gloves. If not wearing disposable coveralls, launder worn clothing separate from other items after use.
5. Use disposable plastic boot covers or rubber footwear; if using rubber footwear, scrub thoroughly with a boot brush and submerge footwear in a disinfectant footbath when entering the area.
6. Place a bleach solution foot bath outside the stall and step in the footbath before entering the stall.
7. Each mount should have a thermometer for monitoring the body temperature; if sharing a thermometer for mounts, clean and disinfect the thermometer between uses.

### **Isolation Stall Exit Protocol**

1. Step in bleach solution foot bath when exiting stall. Organic material will inactivate some disinfectants, so change footbath solution when contaminated with organic material and when disinfectant expires.
2. Remove designated protective wear (footwear, coveralls and gloves) just before exiting the isolation stall. Remove gloves last, pulling them off from the inside without touching the outside of the gloves.
3. Bag all disposable protective wear for appropriate disposal; Bag all reusable protective wear for immediate laundering.
4. Blow nose to remove any potential infectious disease organism.
5. Immediately wash hands or use an appropriate alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
6. Exit isolation area.
7. Clean organic material from all equipment before applying a disinfectant; follow manufacturer recommendations for product contact time.
8. Ideally, individuals departing the isolation area will shower and change clothes. At a minimum, change clothing and footwear.

### **Cleaning and Disinfection Protocols**

Following the use of a mount isolation area at an event, the area and all equipment will be cleaned and disinfected using the following process.

1. Organic matter, such as manure and soiled bedding, will be removed.
2. Walls, floors, and equipment will be washed with soap and rinsed with water.
3. The area and equipment will be allowed time to dry, and any items that can will be dried in direct sunlight.
4. Disinfectant will be applied according to label directions following all safety precautions.

## **APPENDIX III ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

**American Association of Equine Practitioners** - <https://aaep.org/guidelines/infectious-disease-control/biosecurity-guidelines-control-venereally-transmitted-diseases/recommendations-biosecurity-program>

**California Department of Food and Agriculture Biosecurity Toolkit for Equine Events** - [http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/ahfss/animal\\_health/equine\\_biosecurity.html](http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/ahfss/animal_health/equine_biosecurity.html)

**Center for Disease Control and Prevention Pandemic Preparedness** - <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/pandemic-resources/index.htm>

**Equine Disease Communication Center** - <http://equinediseasecc.org/>