



Arizona Department of Agriculture

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VESICULAR STOMATITIS VIRUS (VSV) UPDATE - 5-25-2023

Attention Origin States, Horse Owners, Equine Event Producers and Equine Venue Managers,

On May 17, California identified the first case of Vesicular Stomatitis Virus (VSV) in horses for 2023. The last time the nation experienced an extensive VSV outbreak was in 2020. This particular strain of the virus known as the New Jersey strain, can cause ulcers predominantly along the junction of the skin and oral mucosa around the mouth as well as ulcers on the tongue. This typically leads to excessive salivation and decreased appetite given the discomfort from the lesions. Lesions may also be seen around the coronary bands and elsewhere on the body particularly on the ears, sheath and udder. Horses tend to be the species most severely affected though cattle and other livestock may also be symptomatic. This virus is spread by sandflies, blackflies and also DIRECT CONTACT between horses via grooming behavior and contaminated saliva from ruptured vesicles on bits, bridles, waterers or feed troughs etc.

Given the currently expanding outbreak, we are requiring Certificates of Veterinary Inspection from all states that have or have had a confirmed detection and/or presumed positive suspect premises under state quarantine for Vesicular Stomatitis Virus within the previous 60 days:

- 1. Shall be valid for ONLY 14 DAYS from date of examination of the animal (s).**
- 2. Shall require the statement "All animals identified on this Certificate of Veterinary Inspection have been inspected and found to be free from clinical signs of Vesicular Stomatitis."**

For equine event producers and venue managers in Arizona that are hosting events where horses or other livestock may be coming from affected states, please work with your event veterinarians and staff to:

1. Ensure that any lesioned animals that present at your venue for check-in or are identified as being symptomatic during the course of the event are quarantined away from all other susceptible livestock species.
2. Email diseasereporting@azda.gov immediately to report the affected animal(s). Include the animal name, description or other identifying feature, the owner name and contact information, and your name and contact information so that a staff member from the Arizona Department of Agriculture can arrange to collect samples and determine following steps.

Best,

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