Biosecurity alert
Hendra virus – information for industry
2 July 2011

Hendra virus in South East Queensland

New case – Mt Alford

Biosecurity Queensland is today managing a second confirmed case of Hendra virus at Mt Alford in the Boonah area.

A horse became sick on 1 July 2011 and samples from this horse were sent to Biosecurity Queensland for testing. The horse was later euthanased by a private veterinarian.

Test results overnight have confirmed the horse had Hendra virus infection.

Previously a horse on the property was sick on 20 June 2011 and was later euthanased by a private veterinarian. Samples collected at the time will be tested for Hendra virus.

There are eight horses currently on the property that are being monitored closely and will be tested.

The property has been quarantined to restrict the movement of horses on and off.

There are no links between the horses or the property in this incident and the current incidents at Beaudesert and in New South Wales.

Hendra virus in Beaudesert

A third property has been quarantined as part of the Beaudesert incident.

This is a precautionary measure after tracing of horses on the original infected property at Kerry, showed possible contact with a horse at the third property.

The first rounds of test results on the 20 horses at the second Beaudesert property at Biddaddaba have come back negative. This is the first of three rounds of testing required to clear the property.

Information about Hendra virus

Biosecurity Queensland assesses each emergency disease incident independently. The Equine Influenza incident in 2007/08, required a lockdown of affected areas in Queensland due to its highly infectious nature.

As Hendra virus is not a highly infectious virus, there are no lockdown restrictions for the Queensland horse industry.

The horse industry is not subject to movement restrictions for Hendra virus, except for the four properties under quarantine - three in the Beaudesert area and one in the Boonah area.

Community Engagement

Community engagement officers will be in Beaudesert and Boonah over the weekend providing information and answering any questions residents may have on their situation.

To find where the mobile office will be located, visit the Biosecurity Queensland website

More information

Notify suspected Hendra virus cases by contacting Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23 (during business hours) or the Emergency Animal Disease Watch Hotline on 1800 675 888 (24-hour hotline).

For general information on Hendra virus, visit the Biosecurity Queensland website at www.biosecurity.qld.gov.au

For human related enquiries, contact the Queensland Health Hotline on 13HEALTH (13 43 25 84).

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