

Biosecurity Queensland alert

Hendra virus – industry communiqué

19 July 2012

New Hendra virus case Rockhampton

Biosecurity Queensland is managing a new Hendra virus case near Rockhampton after a positive test result was received last night, Wednesday 18 July 2012.

A seven month old foal was noticed to be acutely ill on Saturday 14 July 2012 and received treatment from a private veterinarian. The condition of the horse deteriorated and it died early on the morning of Sunday 15 July 2012.

The horse was reported as having a raised temperature and displaying neurological signs, including wobbly gait, apparent blindness, droopy lips and salivation.

The property has been quarantined under the *Exotic Diseases in Animals Act 1981*. There are a number of animals on the property and adjoining properties.

Tracing is underway to determine what contact the infected horse had with other animals on all properties.

The case is not related to the previous Hendra virus incident which occurred in Rockhampton in May 2012.

Mackay case

Three properties remain under quarantine for Hendra virus in Mackay after a positive test result was received from a horse on 27 June 2012.

All samples have returned negative results for Hendra virus to date and all animals are reported as remaining healthy.

The third and final round of sampling will be undertaken next week.

Movement restrictions

Restrictions on the quarantined properties apply to the movement of animals, and other items onto and off the properties.

No other movement restrictions for Hendra virus are in place for horses in Queensland.

There are currently no restrictions on holding horse events in Queensland.

For information and guidelines for holding equestrian activities, event organisers and competitors can visit www.biosecurity.qld.gov.au

Personal protective equipment rebate

The Queensland Government has implemented a personal protective equipment (PPE) rebate program for veterinarians, available from 1 July 2012.

The rebate program has been designed to assist and encourage veterinarians to use PPE for themselves and any other person who may be assisting with the sampling, treatment or examination of horses suspected of being infected with Hendra virus.

All veterinarians have a responsibility to ensure that appropriate PPE is worn by themselves and anyone who is assisting them with the sampling, treatment or examination of horses suspected of being infected with Hendra virus.

For information on the program, visit the www.biosecurity.qld.gov.au

More information

The [Hendra virus information pack for horse owners](#) outlines how to reduce the risk of horses becoming infected with Hendra virus and is available on the [Biosecurity Queensland website](#).

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

Contact your GP, local Queensland Health Emergency Department or local Public Health Unit if you have concerns about possible exposure of people to a horse with Hendra virus infection.

For general enquiries about the infection of Hendra virus in humans, call the Queensland Health Hotline on 13HEALTH (13 43 25 84) or visit www.health.qld.gov.au

For information about managing Hendra virus risks at workplaces, contact Workplace Health and Safety Queensland on 1300 369 915 or visit www.worksafe.qld.gov.au

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