

**WORKPLACE HEALTH AND SAFETY QUEENSLAND CHECKLIST FOR MANAGING OCCUPATIONAL HENDRA VIRUS RISKS IN VETERINARY PRACTICE**

| <b>ISSUE</b>  | <b>YES</b> | <b>NO</b> | <b>COMMENT</b> |
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| <b>Veterinary services</b>  |            |           |                |
| Are veterinary services provided to horses? If yes, what percentage of the business is horse work?  |            |           |                |
| Are flying foxes known to be in the vicinity of the veterinary clinic or clients' properties?   |            |           |                |
| <b>Routine contact with horses</b>  |            |           |                |
| Are Hendra virus risks routinely assessed when examining horses? (e.g. checking temperature and clinical history)   |            |           |                |
| Is hand hygiene routinely performed before and after contact with horses and their blood and body substances, after removing personal protective equipment (PPE) and after handling soiled items and equipment? |            |           |                |
| Do staff routinely cover cuts and abrasions before horse contact?   |            |           |                |
| Are disposable gloves routinely worn for all contact with horse blood, body substances, mucous membranes and non-intact skin?   |            |           |                |
| Is protective clothing (e.g. overalls) routinely worn if droplets, splashes and sprays of horse blood and body substances could contaminate a person's clothing?  |            |           |                |
| Is facial protection (e.g. safety eyewear/surgical mask or facial shield) routinely worn if droplets, splashes and/or sprays of horse blood and body substances could contaminate a person's face?              |            |           |                |
| Is veterinary equipment routinely cleaned and   |            |           |                |

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| disinfected/sterilised after use and before use on another horse?   |  |  |  |
| Is there a procedure for the safe handling, transport and reprocessing of contaminated veterinary equipment? (e.g. stomach tubes, endoscopes, dental equipment)   |  |  |  |
| Is there a procedure for the safe handling, transport, storage and disposal of clinical waste, including sharps?  |  |  |  |
| Is there a procedure for sharps safety?   |  |  |  |
| Is there a procedure for the safe handling, transport, storage and laundering of soiled laundry?  |  |  |  |
| Is there a cleaning program for the veterinary clinic, stables and yard, and for cleaning spills of horse blood and body substances?  |  |  |  |
| <b>Routine higher risk procedures</b>   |  |  |  |
| Are higher risk veterinary procedures* performed at the clinic?<br>* Procedures that involve a high level of contact with, or aerosolisation of, horse blood and body substances (e.g. necropsy, dental procedures using powered tools).  |  |  |  |
| If yes, is the following PPE routinely worn when performing higher risk procedures on horses?<br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• disposable gloves</li> <li>• protective clothing</li> <li>• hair covering (e.g. bucket hat, surgical cap)</li> <li>• surgical mask/safety eyewear or face shield for droplet generating procedures</li> <li>• particulate respirator for aerosol generating procedures (e.g. disposable, fluid-resistant P2 respirator).</li> </ul> |  |  |  |

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| <b>Contact with potential and confirmed cases of Hendra virus</b>   |  |  |  |
| Is there a triage system to identify Hendra virus risks when taking bookings for horse consultations?   |  |  |  |
| Is there a Hendra virus case investigation procedure for safely responding to potential and confirmed cases of Hendra virus?  |  |  |  |
| If yes, is the procedure documented?  |  |  |  |
| Is PPE routinely worn for contact with potential and confirmed cases of Hendra virus?   |  |  |  |
| If yes, does this include the following PPE? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• disposable gloves</li> <li>• splash resistant disposable overalls with hood</li> <li>• facial protection (e.g. safety eyewear/face shield)</li> <li>• impervious safety footwear</li> <li>• particulate respirator (e.g. disposable, fluid-resistant P2 respirator)?</li> </ul> |  |  |  |
| Is a Hendra virus kit provided?   |  |  |  |
| If yes, does the kit contain: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• adequate supplies of PPE for repeat visits and assisting persons?</li> <li>• appropriate detergents, disinfectants and equipment? (e.g. sampling equipment and waste disposal bags)</li> </ul>   |  |  |  |
| Is the kit always available at all sites where horses are examined?   |  |  |  |
| Is there a procedure for managing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• unplanned contact with a suspect horse (e.g. where Hendra virus is not suspected before examination of the horse);</li> <li>• accidental contamination with blood and body</li> </ul>   |  |  |  |

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| substances from a potential or confirmed Hendra virus case? (e.g. sharps injury, PPE failure)  |  |  |  |
| Is there a procedure to provide health and safety/biosecurity information to clients and others (e.g. carcass disposal contractors) when Hendra virus is suspected or confirmed?   |  |  |  |
| <b>Training and PPE programs</b>   |  |  |  |
| Have staff been provided with information, instruction and training on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• infection control practices to prevent exposure to Hendra virus;</li> <li>• Hendra virus case investigation procedure;</li> <li>• setting up a biosecurity entry/exit site;</li> <li>• correct use of PPE, including safe donning and doffing and how to perform a respirator fit check;</li> <li>• collection, handling and transport of samples?</li> </ul> |  |  |  |
| Are training records kept?   |  |  |  |
| Are workers provided with respirator fit testing?  |  |  |  |
| If yes, is a record kept of the respirator brand and size that each worker has been successfully fit tested against?   |  |  |  |
| Do any workers whose duties require them to wear a respirator have facial hair?  |  |  |  |
| If yes, is there a system to protect workers with facial hair who may be exposed to infectious bioaerosols? (e.g. use of powered air purifying respirator)   |  |  |  |
| Is there a system to manage heat stress when wearing PPE? (e.g. cooling vests)   |  |  |  |
| <b>Amenities</b>   |  |  |  |
| Is there ready access to hand hygiene amenities in clinical and stable areas?  |  |  |  |

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| Are hand hygiene amenities maintained in a safe, serviceable and hygienic condition?  |  |  |  |
| Are hand hygiene amenities provided in each practice vehicle? (e.g. water container, soap, paper towels, hand wipes, alcohol based hand rub)  |  |  |  |
| Are first aid kits provided in each practice vehicle?   |  |  |  |
| Are staff food preparation and dining facilities separate from clinical, animal handling and equipment reprocessing areas?  |  |  |  |
| <b>Equine hospital design</b>   |  |  |  |
| Are the hospital, stables and yards maintained in a safe, serviceable and hygienic condition?   |  |  |  |
| Is there an isolation area for sick horses?   |  |  |  |
| Are horses prevented from having nose-to nose contact with horses on adjoining properties?  |  |  |  |
| Are feed bins and watering points kept under cover and away from trees?   |  |  |  |
| Does the property have trees that are attractive to flying foxes for either roosting or feeding?  |  |  |  |
| <p>If yes, have steps been taken to minimise contact between flying foxes and horses? For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stable horses.</li> <li>• Remove horses from paddocks where flying foxes roost.</li> <li>• Avoid placing horses in paddocks that contain trees that are attractive to flying foxes or remove horses from paddocks when trees are flowering or fruiting.</li> <li>• At night, bring horses into a cleared night holding area or covered enclosure without nearby or overhanging trees.</li> <li>• Avoid feed that is attractive to flying foxes (e.g.</li> </ul> |  |  |  |

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| fruit, vegetables and molasses)  |  |  |  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tree management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Clear trees that are attractive to flying foxes for roosting or feeding.</li> <li>○ Plant trees that are not attractive to flying foxes for roosting or feeding. *</li> </ul> </li> <li>• To deter roosting, plant single trees or single lines of trees, and clear or avoid planting groves.</li> </ul> |  |  |  |
| <b>Recording and notifying events</b>  |  |  |  |
| Is there a procedure to record work injuries, work-caused illnesses and dangerous events?  |  |  |  |
| Is there a procedure to notify Workplace Health and Safety Queensland of serious bodily injuries, work-caused illnesses and dangerous events?  |  |  |  |
| <b>Resources</b>   |  |  |  |
| Do staff have ready access to a current copy of Biosecurity Queensland's <i>Guidelines for veterinarians handling potential Hendra virus infection in horses</i> ?   |  |  |  |
| Are copies of a Hendra virus case investigation procedure available in each practice vehicle?  |  |  |  |

\* Trees that are not attractive to flying foxes include: conifers, casuarinas (she oaks), cypress, brachychiton (kurrajong, flame tree, bottle tree), fiddlewood trees, olive trees, bougainvillea, racehorse trees (tipuana), jacaranda, poinciana and wattle (the little red flying fox feeds on pollen when other food is scarce but the wattle flowering season though intense is very short). Of these, jacaranda, poinciana, kurrajong and tipuana are shade trees.

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