

EQUINE HERPES MYELOENCEPHALOPATHY

EQUINE EVENT SPONSOR GUIDANCE

The Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) encourages event sponsors to take all necessary precautions to prevent further spread of equine herpes virus-1 (EHV-1) and protect equine health. Given the nature of this virus and routes of transmission, and out of an abundance of caution, TAHC recommends canceling or postponing equine events as the best method to protect horses from further exposure until such time as the extent of the current outbreak has been determined.

On November 18, 2025, TAHC received information that multiple horses exhibited clinical signs of equine herpes myeloencephalopathy (EHM), the neurologic disease linked to EHV-1 after attending the 2025 WPRA World Finals and Elite Barrel Race event in Waco, Texas on November 5-9, 2025.

The extent of this EHV-1 outbreak is not yet fully known. Presentation of EHV-1 in these horses has been acute with rapid progression and high clinical severity. A concerning number of mortalities in horses suspected to have EHM have been reported. Investigation into the character and epidemiology of this disease event is ongoing but the need for rapid and proactive actions to curb the spread is clear. Measures to prevent contact of horses from exposure to the virus and increased biosecurity overall are recommended.

If equine events are not postponed or canceled, event sponsors are encouraged to prioritize the following:

- As required in [TAC Title 4 Part 2 Chapter 51.4](#), an event sponsor must maintain equine owner's name and contact information, including address and county of origin.
 - Acquiring contact information, including phone number and valid email address, for participants is also very helpful for animal disease traceability purposes.
- Stay vigilant, practice strong biosecurity, and encourage sick horses to stay home and isolated.
- Assess health status of horses prior to entry and unloading.
 - Prioritize sanitation and biosecurity before, during, and after the event.
- Encourage twice daily rectal temperature monitoring for 14 days.
- Immediately isolate any horse with a temperature above 102.5°F or showing other signs consistent with EHM and contact a veterinarian for further evaluation, testing, and treatment.
 - Any horse with a temperature of 102.5°F or more should be PCR tested at an official lab, such as, [Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory \(TVMDL\)](#), Cornell Animal Health Diagnostic Center (ADHC), or other AAVLD accredited lab.

If animals are traveling interstate to attend an event, it is important owners contact the state of destination to verify entry requirements. Animals under TAHC hold orders or quarantines are under movement restrictions and should comply with set requirements to help keep their horses and the equine industry safe.

Contact your [TAHC region office](#) for specific questions related to event guidance, and visit the [TAHC website](#) for general disease information and biosecurity resources. The equine industry is encouraged to obtain the latest information on equine disease events nationwide on the [Equine Disease Communication Center \(EDCC\) website](#).

