

# EQUINE HERPESVIRUS TYPE 1 (EHV-1) RESPIRATORY AND REPRODUCTIVE DISEASE

## QUICK FACTS

### General Facts

**Equine herpesvirus type 1 (EHV-1) is a very common infectious virus of horses. It can cause respiratory disease, late-term abortions, early foal deaths and neurologic disease. Here, we will focus on EHV-1 induced respiratory and reproductive disease.**

- Disease varies in severity
- Can affect horses of any age
- Spread via coughing horses; direct and indirect contact; nasal secretions; contact with aborted fetuses, placental and fetal fluids
- Most horses are exposed at a young age and become latent carriers for life
- Disease can be reactivated by stress
- Virus shedding can occur silently and last for more than 10 days<sup>1</sup>
- Incubation period is 24 hours to 6 days or longer
- Major cause of viral abortion outbreaks in mares
- Abortion can occur weeks to months following virus exposure with no clinical signs

### Watch for these Signs of Respiratory and Reproductive Disease

- ⚠ Fever (>101.5°)
- ⚠ Coughing
- ⚠ Nasal discharge
- ⚠ Lethargy/depression
- ⚠ Neonatal death
- ⚠ Late-term abortion (7+ months)



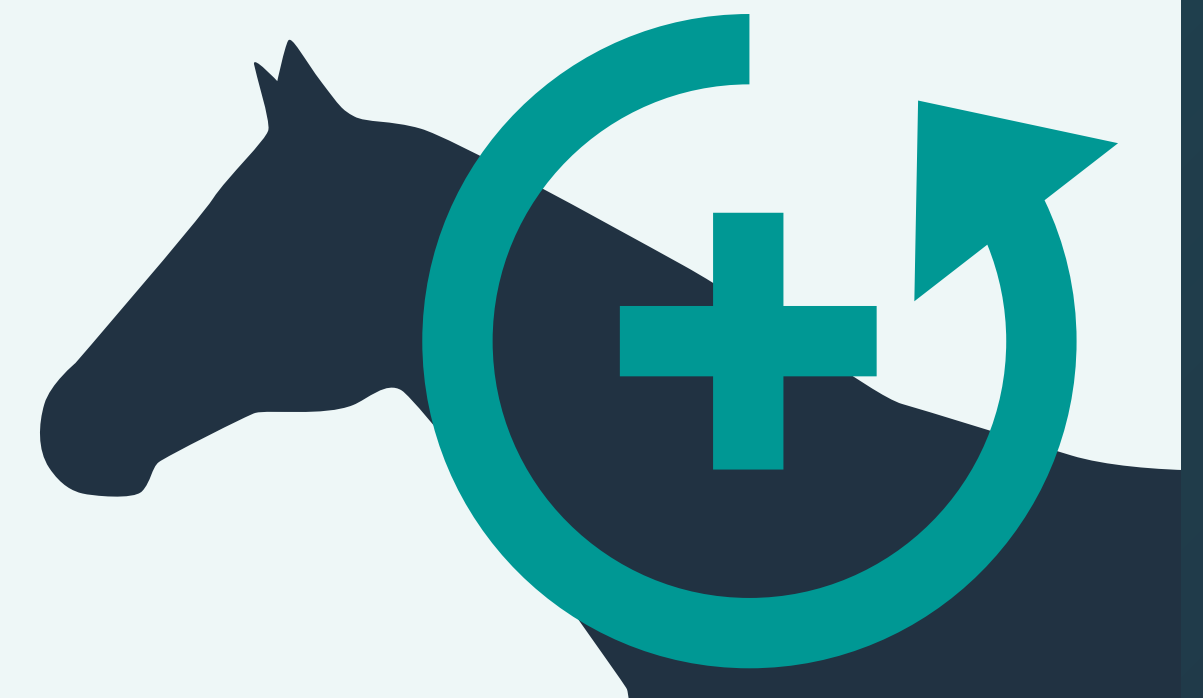
### Diagnosis

- Respiratory disease diagnosis is performed with a nasal swab and/or blood sample submitted for polymerase-chain reaction (PCR) testing
- Cause of abortion is diagnosed by laboratory evaluation of the aborted fetus and/or placenta



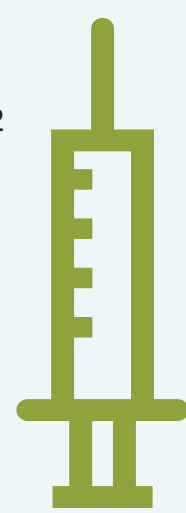
### Treatment and Recovery

- Supportive care and rest. Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory products, such as Banamine® (flunixin meglumine) may be prescribed
- Immediate removal of aborted fetus and placenta
- Separate and isolate aborting mare from herd and provide appropriate uterine care
- Recovery depends on severity of disease



### Vaccination is the #1 Way to Protect Your Horse Against EHV-1 Respiratory and Reproductive Disease

- PRESTIGE® EHV family of vaccines are effective against respiratory and reproductive disease
- Horses at risk should be revaccinated at 6-month intervals<sup>2</sup>
  - Horses that travel and are in frequent contact with large numbers of horses
  - Horses at home exposed to traveling horses
  - Horses with compromised or immature immune systems
- Vaccinate pregnant mares at 5, 7 and 9 months of gestation with an inactivated EHV-1 vaccine, such as PRESTIGE® PRODIGY®, which reduces abortions.<sup>3</sup>



### REMEMBER: Vaccination + Biosecurity is Best!

- EHV-1 is highly contagious and spreads rapidly
- Avoid nose-to-nose contact with other horses
- Isolate all new entries or horses returning to the stable from travel
- Check temperatures at least once and preferably twice daily (Normal = 99°F - 101°F)
- Isolate any horse with elevated temperature and/or occurrence of unprovoked coughing
- Do not share tack, water buckets or feed sources
- Practice good hand hygiene (hand sanitizers in absence of soap and water)
- Clean and disinfect hauling equipment like trailers after each use
- Contact your veterinarian immediately to schedule a comprehensive examination



#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

[www.equinediseassec.org/disease-information](http://www.equinediseassec.org/disease-information)  
[www.AAEP.org/guidelines](http://www.AAEP.org/guidelines)  
[www.aphis.usda.gov](http://www.aphis.usda.gov)

Talk to your veterinarian today to see if your horse is at risk for EHV-1 and determine the appropriate vaccination program. For more information on the PRESTIGE® line of EHV vaccines, visit [www.PrestigeVaccines.com](http://www.PrestigeVaccines.com).

<sup>1</sup>EQUINE HERPESVIRUS MYELOENCEPHALOPATHY (EHM) QUICK FACTS" also available.  
<sup>2</sup>AAEP Infectious Disease Guidelines: Equine Herpesvirus 1 & 4, Revised 2017.  
<sup>3</sup>AAEP Risk-Based Vaccination Guidelines ([www.aaep.org](http://www.aaep.org))  
<sup>4</sup>For more information regarding safety and efficacy data, go to [productdata.aphis.usda.gov](http://productdata.aphis.usda.gov)



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## The Science of Healthier Animals

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 **MERCK**  
Animal Health

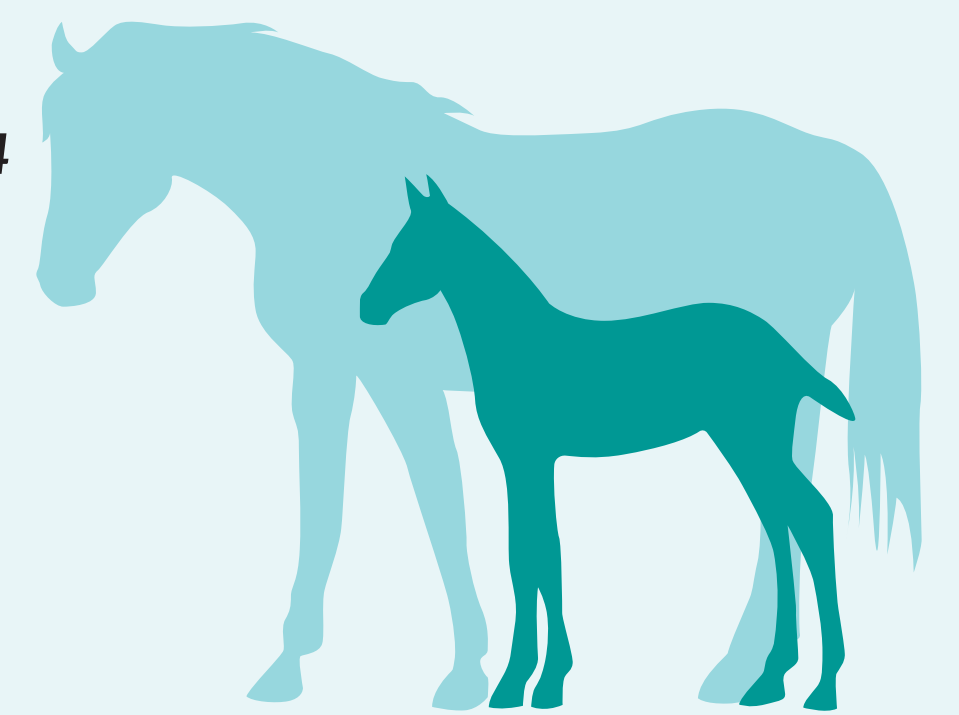
# EQUINE HERPESVIRUS TYPE 4 (EHV-4)

## QUICK FACTS

**Equine herpesvirus type 4 (EHV-4) is the most common infectious upper respiratory disease in the horse.<sup>1</sup> It is endemic in many equine populations.**

- Disease varies in severity
- Typically occurs in younger horses, but can affect horses of any age
- **Highly contagious** – spread via coughing horses; direct and indirect contact; nasal secretions
- Most horses are exposed to the virus at a young age and become latent carriers for life
- Disease can be reactivated by stress
- Virus shedding can occur silently (without clinical signs) and last for more than 10 days
- After exposure, incubation period may be as short as 24 hours, but is typically 4-6 days or longer
- EHV-4 and EHV-1 are of the same family of viruses, but each can cause disease independent of the other

**EHV-4 is a tricky disease. As with EHV-1, existence of a carrier state seriously compromises efforts to control EHV-4 and explains why outbreaks of EHV-1 or EHV-4 can occur in closed populations of horses.**



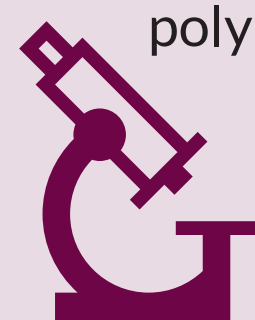
### Watch for These Signs

- ⚠️ Fever (102°-107°F)
- ⚠️ Nasal and ocular discharge
- ⚠️ Lethargy
- ⚠️ Anorexia



### Diagnosis

- Diagnosis is often performed with a nasal swab that is submitted to a laboratory for polymerase-chain reaction (PCR) testing



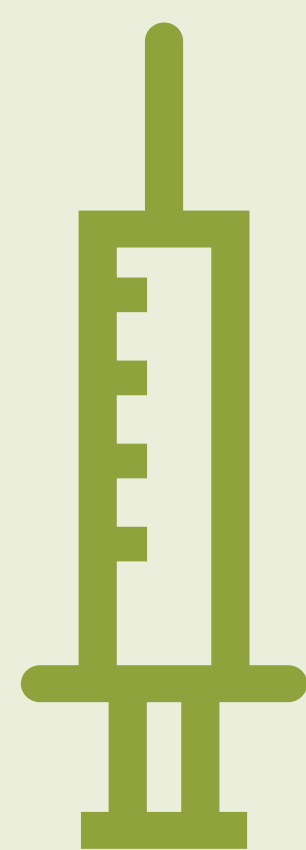
### Treatment and Recovery

- Supportive care and rest. Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory products such as Banamine® (flunixin meglumine) may be prescribed by your veterinarian
- Recovery depends on severity of disease



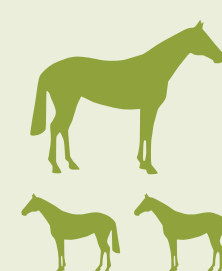
### VACCINATION IS THE #1 WAY TO PROTECT YOUR HORSE AGAINST EHV-4

- EHV-4 typically peaks from October to February, but can occur any time of year<sup>1</sup>
- Horses at risk should be revaccinated at 6-month intervals<sup>2</sup>
  - Horses that travel and are in frequent contact with large numbers of horses
  - Horses at home exposed to traveling horses
  - Horses with compromised or immature immune systems
- The benefits of vaccination:
  - Reduced risk of infection
  - Reduced shedding of virus by infected horses so less virus is circulating in the horse population
  - Reduced severity of clinical signs
  - Less time off exercise, training, competing
  - Lower cost of veterinary treatment



### REMEMBER: Vaccination + Biosecurity is Best!

- 1. EHV-4 is highly contagious and spreads rapidly**
- Avoid nose-to-nose contact with other horses
- 3. Isolate** all new entries or horses returning to the stable from travel
- 4. Check temperatures** at least once and preferably twice daily (Normal = 99°F - 101°F)
- Isolate any horse with elevated temperature and/or occurrence of unprovoked coughing
- 6. Do not share** tack, water buckets, feed sources, etc.
- Practice **good hand hygiene** (hand sanitizers in absence of soap and water)
- 8. Clean and disinfect** hauling equipment like trailers after each use
- 9. Contact your veterinarian immediately** to schedule a comprehensive examination



#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

[www.equinediseasecc.org/disease-information](http://www.equinediseasecc.org/disease-information)  
[www.AAEP.org/guidelines](http://www.AAEP.org/guidelines)  
[www.aphis.usda.gov](http://www.aphis.usda.gov)

Talk to your veterinarian today to see if your horse is at risk for EHV-4 and determine the appropriate vaccination program. For more information on the PRESTIGE® line of EHV vaccines, visit [www.PrestigeVaccines.com](http://www.PrestigeVaccines.com).

<sup>1</sup> Merck Animal Health and University of California, Davis (Nicola Pusterla, DVM). Infectious Upper Respiratory Disease Surveillance Program. Ongoing research 2008-present.  
<sup>2</sup> AAEP Risk-Based Vaccination Guidelines ([www.aaep.org](http://www.aaep.org))



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