

GUIDELINES FOR DISINFECTION

Personal disinfection

1 February 2008

'Horses' for the purposes of this document refers to horses, donkeys or any other member of the Equidae family.

Why do you need to disinfect yourself?

Equine influenza is a highly contagious viral disease which can be easily spread between premises by contaminated horse transport vehicles, equipment and people.

Disinfection: legal requirements and other recommendations

Legal requirements for disinfection (under Orders from the *Exotic Diseases of Animals Act 1991*) apply to anyone (or any object or vehicle they use) who has contact with horses or horse products. Penalties apply to people who don't abide by these requirements – a fine of up to \$22,000 or up to six months imprisonment.

When to disinfect?

You **MUST** disinfect yourself (and any object or vehicle you use) in the following circumstances. Failure to disinfect may result in fines or imprisonment.

- **Purple Zone** – Before you leave a Purple Zone (Special Restricted Area), if you have come into contact with horses or horse products. Any horse vehicle leaving the Purple Zone must have a decontamination certificate.
- **Red and Amber Zones** – Before entering premises in a Red or Amber Zone (Restricted Area), and before you come into contact with horses.
- **Red and Amber Zones** – Before you leave premises in a Red or Amber Zone (Restricted Area), if you have come into contact with horses or horse products.
- **any zone** – Before leaving any property in any zone which is under a **quarantine order**.



EQUINE INFLUENZA HOTLINE

1800 675 888

WEBSITE FOR UPDATES

www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/equine-influenza



NSW DEPARTMENT OF
PRIMARY INDUSTRIES

It is **strongly recommended** that you disinfect yourself (and any object or vehicle you use) before you come into contact with horses in the White Zone or the Green Zone (Protected Area).

Step-by-step guidelines

General

1. You should avoid unnecessary contact with horses or horse products.
2. You should park your vehicle away from stables, horse paddocks and the main thoroughfare of horses. If visiting a horse property, leave dogs or other pets at home.

Before coming into contact with horses:

1. Wear clean hats and clothes that have been laundered since your last contact with horses and that can easily be laundered afterwards.
2. Wear boots that have been disinfected since your last contact with horses.
3. If appropriate, wear protective clothing such as overalls, disposable hair coverings and disposable boot coverings.

After contact with horses:

1. Scrub any equipment which is leaving the property and has come in contact with horses with soap, detergent or disinfectant.
2. At the car or house, blow your nose into a tissue and place the tissue in a plastic bag, leaving it on-site for disposal.
3. Remove overalls and hair covering if worn and leave them on-site for washing or disposal.
4. Scrub your boots using soap, detergent or disinfectant.
5. Clean your glasses or sunglasses.
6. Wipe your mobile phone with an alcohol-based cloth such as a baby wipe.
7. Launder or disinfect clothing.
8. Wash your hands, arms and any exposed skin and hair thoroughly with surgical scrub or soap. Continue washing for at least two minutes. Make sure any exposed skin that may have been contaminated with saliva, nasal secretions or mucus is cleaned thoroughly.

Please remember that:

- in a **Red or Amber Zone**, cleaning and disinfection procedures must be done before leaving the property.
- in the **Purple Zone**, cleaning and disinfection procedures must be done before leaving the Purple Zone. Horse vehicles must have a decontamination certificate to leave the Purple Zone.
- For a **quarantined property**, disinfection procedures must be done before leaving the property.

If you have come into contact with horses we advise you have a thorough shower for at least three minutes, including washing your hair, then changing into clean clothes and footwear.

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Disclaimer: The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing (February 2008). However, because of advances in knowledge, users are reminded of the need to ensure that information upon which they rely is up to date and to check currency of the information with the appropriate officer of New South Wales Department of Primary Industries or the user's independent adviser.

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