

13 July 2011

Current Situation

Staff from the Livestock Health and Pest Authorities and the Department of Primary Industries are managing two Hendra virus incidents on the Mid and North Coast of NSW. They are continuing to work closely with NSW Health and government authorities in Queensland.

Since 29 June 2011 samples have been submitted for Hendra exclusion from an additional 28 NSW properties and all have tested negative.

Second horse infected at Wollongbar

The companion horse on the property quarantined in the Wollongbar area was euthanased on 12 July 2011, after laboratory testing at the Australian Animal Health Laboratory confirmed that it was infected with Hendra virus.

It is believed that this horse became infected with Hendra following very close contact with the original infected horse.

Hendra virus at Macksville

One property near Macksville on the NSW Mid Coast remains in quarantine; restrictions apply to the movement of horses and other items onto and off the property.

The first round of testing on the companion horse has been completed and all results are negative. There are three rounds of testing in total - the second and third rounds will take place over the coming month. Samples were collected from the two other 'low risk' horses on the property on 11 July 2011 and the results are pending. All the horses are being regularly monitored and remain well.

Macksville information meeting

The NSW Department of Primary Industries and Mid North Coast Local Health District are holding an information night on Hendra virus this Thursday 14 July for local horse owners and interested members of the public. The public meeting will be held at Macksville Ex-Servicemen's Club at 7.30pm.

If you suspect your horse has Hendra virus

If you are concerned that your horse has Hendra virus, contact your private veterinarian. They will assess the horse and notify authorities if they suspect the horse is infected. If your vet is unavailable and the horse is deteriorating rapidly, please phone the emergency animal disease hotline on 1800 675 888.

There is a legal responsibility to report suspected Hendra cases to the local Livestock Health and Pest Authority, an inspector with the Department of Primary Industries, or the Emergency Animal Disease Hotline on 1800 675 888.

Horse movements in NSW

As Hendra virus is not highly infectious the NSW horse industry is not subject to movement restrictions for Hendra virus - except for the properties under quarantine.

Hendra virus could potentially occur wherever there are fruit bats and horse owners should be vigilant for signs consistent with Hendra virus infection.

Horse owners should practice good biosecurity, and not travel, work on or take unwell horses to other properties or equestrian events.

Further information

Further information on Hendra including a new fact sheet ([Hendra virus - Protecting you and your horse](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/livestock/horses/health/general/hendra-virus)) may be found at: <http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/livestock/horses/health/general/hendra-virus>

Information on the current situation in Queensland may be found at http://www.dpi.qld.gov.au/4790_2900.htm.

Ian Roth

Chief Veterinary Officer NSW

© State of New South Wales through NSW Department Primary Industries 2011.

Disclaimer: The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing (13 July 2011). 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 NSW Department Primary Industries or the user's independent adviser.