

21 OCTOBER 2007

EQUINE INFLUENZA

CHIEF VETERINARY OFFICER COMMUNICATION # 10

URGENT FOR ALL VETERINARIANS

Vaccination of Horses in the Purple Zone

Aim of Vaccination in the Purple Zone

One of the aims of the NSW Equine Influenza Control Program is to have the horse population in the Purple Zone resistant to EI following either vaccination or infection. This means that at least 80% of the horses need to be immune.

Priority List of Horses to be Vaccinated

Several factors will mean that this will not be as rapid as many would like, including:

- * The supply of vaccine
- * The supply of microchips
- * The time it takes to vaccinate, microchip and complete the required paper work
- * The biosecurity measures to allow veterinarians and their assistants to enter properties which have been able to exclude the infection thus far.
- * The permit requirements to use a live, genetically modified, unregistered vaccine.

The priority list below aims to give the best disease control quickly. Therefore priority for vaccination will be given to horses reported as currently uninfected, in the following order:

- * Properties with large groups of horses where vaccination will assist in rapid, strategic disease control.
- * Horses that are required to be moved.
- * Horses located in local postcode areas from which a large number of uninfected horses have been reported.
- * Equestrian Federation of Australia priority horses and others on the same property.
- * Horses owned by essential industry personnel such as veterinarians, farriers, horse dentists etc. and by people working through Local Vaccination Centres or Forward Control Posts.
- * Horses that have been registered and monitored by the owner.
- * Other horses.

Management of Vaccination in the Purple Zone

The Local Disease Control Centre (LDCC) at Elizabeth Macarthur Agricultural Institute, Menangle will administer the vaccination program in the Purple Zone.

The LDCC will try to get the high priority groups of horses vaccinated quickly.

Horses where the risk of infection, the impact of infection or the benefit of vaccination is thought to be less will be vaccinated as resources become available.

Private veterinarians working in the Purple Zone are requested to co-operate with the LDCC in this program

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Disclaimer: The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing (18 October 2007). 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.