

16 JANUARY 2008

EQUINE INFLUENZA

CHIEF VETERINARY OFFICER COMMUNICATION # 22

URGENT FOR ALL VETERINARIANS

Next Monday is the deadline for horse owners to apply through their private practitioner for free vaccination in the Purple Zone

The Department of Primary Industries (DPI) has been offering free vaccinations for any horses in the Purple Zone that have not been infected with equine influenza (EI). The program, which includes first round (V1) and second round (V2) vaccinations, was put in place to increase the level of immunity in the zone and minimise the risk of infection re-establishing, and has almost reached its target numbers.

If your clients want to take advantage of this free vaccination program they will have to apply through you by next Monday, 21st January 2008. You need to complete the ['Vaccination Request for the Purple Zone'](#) on the client's behalf, and fax it to the nearest Forward Command Post (listed on the bottom of the form).

A check will then be made to determine the eligibility of the horses for vaccination. Horses on premises that were infected are not eligible unless there is clear evidence that the particular horses are sero-negative. Each case is assessed on its merits and either rejected or approved.

Normally a request to vaccinate received from you on behalf of one of your clients is then tasked to you.

However, it should be noted that **all tasked Purple Zone first round vaccinations (V1) must be completed before Monday 4th February 2008.**

There are a few practitioners in the Purple Zone who have backlogs of approved first round vaccination requests that appear unlikely to be completed by this date. These practitioners are being contacted about resolving these backlogs.

Your clients should also be reminded that **from Monday 4th February 2008, only immune horses will be able to move within the Purple Zone.** Immune horses are either approved vaccinates or recovered horses. The status of 'approved vaccinate' is achieved one week after second vaccination.

Horse owners who do not qualify or miss the deadline for free vaccinations can still apply for vaccination after Monday 21st January 2008 but, unless there are extenuating circumstances approved by the CVO, the owner will be responsible for all associated costs.

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Disclaimer: The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing (16 January 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.