

Biosecurity alert

Guidelines for holding equestrian events

October 2010

Overview

These guidelines provide general information for those organising and competing at horse events in Queensland.

After the successful eradication campaign of equine influenza (EI) in Australia in 2007–08 it remains vital that all involved in equestrian activities continue to follow good biosecurity measures to minimise the risk of spreading infectious diseases.

Recommendations for event organisers

Prepare and implement a biosecurity plan

Preventing the introduction of an infectious disease at a horse event is vital. A biosecurity plan outlines the precautions taken to minimise the risk of introducing an infectious disease into an animal population.

A biosecurity plan should include:

- Veterinarian to be on call during event
- Method of making emergency phone calls or alternate communication
- Plan to minimise public access to stable areas
- Separate vehicle parking for competitors and spectators
- Single entry and exit to grounds
- Adequate hand-hygiene facilities especially in eating and horse handling areas
- Designated isolation area (or stable) for sick horses
- Good hygiene practice between horses for officials/stewards
- A contingency plan in the event a stock standstill is declared.

Event records should be kept. The following records are recommended.

All horses:

- Name of horse/s
- Identification of horse/s (brand/microchip number, sex, colour)

- PIC (property identification code), location where the horse came from.

All competitors

- Name, address and phone number of all competitors (persons in charge of horse).

Event organisers have a duty of care to participants and their horses. Event organisers should keep event attendance records for a period of six months.

Recommendations for competitors

Primary responsibility for biosecurity at horse events lies with the horse owners/competitors, long before the event.

- **Practise good biosecurity, good hygiene and decontamination of equipment.**
- Wash your hands with soap and water or use hand wipes and waterless hand hygiene solution immediately after handling horses,
- Do not share equipment, including food and water containers between horses. Avoid use of communal water troughs.
- **Do not take sick/unwell horses to an event.** Horse owners should not knowingly take sick horses to events.
- If a horse is unwell at an event competitors should notify an event official.
- Stop all non-essential contact with the sick horse and blood or body fluids from the horse until a veterinarian has excluded Hendra virus infection as the cause of illness
- Children should not have close contact with a sick horse at least until infection has been ruled out by a veterinarian.
- Sick horses must be promptly isolated and seek veterinary advice. Any equipment in contact with the sick horse should also be isolated.

Flying foxes and Hendra virus - information for the community

July 2011

Flying foxes – general information

Flying foxes are complex, highly social and mobile native animals. They make a significant contribution to environmental health and the economy through their role as essential pollinators and seed dispersers for native forest.

In turn, these forests provide valuable timber, act as carbon sinks, and stabilise our river systems and water catchments.

Queensland has four native species of flying-fox: grey-headed flying fox, black flying fox, little red flying-fox and spectacled flying fox.

Flying foxes and Hendra virus

Hendra virus is a sporadic cause of disease in people and horses. Although the disease can be transmitted from horses to humans, there is no evidence that it can be transmitted directly from flying foxes to humans.

The virus was first isolated in 1994 from an outbreak of disease in horses at a stable in the suburb of Hendra, Brisbane.

Since it was first isolated, seven cases of human infection have been recorded of which four have been fatal.

Flying foxes are a natural host for Hendra virus. The spread of Hendra virus from flying foxes to horses is not yet fully understood. However, the virus has been found in the urine, placental material, aborted foetuses and birthing fluids of flying foxes.

Ongoing research is continually increasing our knowledge about this disease.

Protection of people

There is no evidence of human-to-human or flying fox-to-human spread of Hendra virus. All human infections have been the result of very close contact with infected horses, in particular direct exposure to tissues and secretions from infected or dead horses.

People are urged to be extremely vigilant if their horse displays rapid onset of clinical signs including raised temperature, respiratory distress and/or neurological signs. In this case, horse owners should contact their local veterinarian for further advice.

For further information

Contact the Queensland Health Hotline on 13 Health (432584) if you have concerns about possible exposure of people to Hendra virus.

Protection of horses

Flying foxes often visit properties where native eucalypts, bottlebrushes, lilly-pillies, figs and melaleucas are flowering.

Blossoms are their primary source of food. They will also feed on palm seeds and exotic fruits when native food is less abundant. Horse owners should follow these steps to protect their horses:

- Place feed and water containers under cover if possible
- Do not place feed and water containers under trees, particularly if flying foxes are attracted to those trees.
- Do not use feed that might be attractive to flying foxes if they are known to be in the area. Fruit and vegetables (e.g. apples, carrots) or anything sweet (e.g. molasses) may attract flying foxes.
- If possible, remove horses from paddocks where flowering or fruiting trees have resulted in a temporary surge in flying fox numbers. Return the horses after the trees have stopped flowering or fruiting.

- If removal of horses from paddocks is not possible, restrict their access to the areas where the flying foxes are active and for the period of time they are present (e.g. under trees while flowers and fruit are present).

Contact the Queensland Health Hotline on 13 Health (432584) if you have concerns about possible exposure of people to Hendra virus.

It is vitally important to follow good biosecurity and hygiene practices even if you do not know of flying fox colonies in the area.

Control of flying foxes

Any unauthorised attempts to disturb flying fox colonies are not only illegal but also ineffective. Flying foxes are very mobile animals. They are found in many areas of Queensland. They occupy daytime campsites which vary in location from rivers, creeks and streams to gullies and mangroves areas and some species regularly move camps, following food sources such as flowering trees. They fly many kilometres between the camps and their night-time feeding sites.

There has been much debate about the role of flying foxes in this disease; however culling flying foxes is not an effective way to reduce Hendra virus risk, for a number of reasons:

- Flying foxes are an important part of our natural environment.
- Flying foxes are widespread in Australia and as they are highly mobile it is not feasible to cull them.
- There are far more effective steps people can take to reduce the risk of Hendra virus infection in horses and humans.
- Culling flying foxes could make the problem worse by further stressing them and causing increased excretion of the virus.

More information

For more information visit the Department of Environment and Resource Management website at <http://www.derm.qld.gov.au/> or call 1300 130 372.

Notify suspected Hendra virus cases by contacting Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23 (during business hours) or the Emergency Animal Disease Watch Hotline on 1800 675 888 (24-hour hotline). More information is available at www.biosecurity.qld.gov.au.

Hendra Virus Infection

Description:

Hendra virus was discovered following an outbreak of illness in a large racing stable in the suburb of Hendra, Brisbane, in 1994.

The natural host for Hendra virus is the flying fox. The virus can spread from flying foxes to horses and, rarely, from horses to people. Research and testing of many other animals and insects has shown no evidence of Hendra virus occurring naturally in any other species.

Since it was first discovered, 14 Hendra virus outbreaks in horses have been identified. Most of these outbreaks involved only one or two horses. Of these events, 13 occurred in coastal Queensland and one in northern New South Wales.

Several hundred people who have been exposed to horses with Hendra virus infection in the last 16 years have not become infected. Unfortunately, there have also been seven confirmed Hendra virus infections in humans, all in Queensland. Four of these people died.

About 45 horses have been confirmed (or considered likely) to have Hendra virus infection in the 14 outbreaks to date. Of these, 20 were from the original Hendra outbreak in 1994. All affected horses have either died as a direct result of their infection or been euthanised.

Symptoms:

Disease in humans

The few known cases of human Hendra virus infection have become unwell with:

- an influenza-like illness (which led to pneumonia in one case) with symptoms such as fever, cough, sore throat, headache and tiredness and/or
- encephalitis (inflammation of the brain) with symptoms such as headache, high fever, and drowsiness, which progressed to convulsions and/or coma and death.

Time from exposure of a person to a sick horse until the start of illness in humans has been between 5 and 21 days.

Disease in horses

Hendra virus infection in horses can produce a wide range of signs. Early signs usually include fever, increased heart rate and restlessness; other common features include difficulty breathing and/or weakness, neurological signs such as uncoordinated gait and muscle twitching, quickly leading to death in most cases.

Transmission:

While the exact route of infection is not known, it is thought that horses may contract Hendra virus infection from eating food recently contaminated by flying fox urine, saliva or birth products. Spread of infection to other horses can then follow. Spread happens more often when the sick horse is kept with other horses in a stable, but is possible wherever horses have close contact with secretions from an infected horse. Small amounts of virus may be present in a horse's body fluids, particularly nasal secretions, for a few days before they become sick.

The seven confirmed human cases all became infected following close contact with respiratory secretions and/or blood from an infectious horse. Many people have reported similar contact with infected horses but have remained well, and their blood tests have shown no evidence of Hendra virus infection.

There is no evidence of human to human transmission. Testing of people who have had contact with a person with Hendra virus infection, including health care workers and family contacts, has shown no evidence of the virus.

There is no evidence that the virus can be passed directly from flying foxes to humans, from the environment to

Hendra Virus Infection

humans, from humans to horses, or can float in the air.

Hendra virus in the environment is killed by heat, drying and cleaning with detergents. Some disinfectant products are also effective against the virus.

Treatment:

Research is being undertaken into monoclonal antibodies to see if they may be useful in preventing Hendra virus infection from developing in people who have had high risk exposures.

A person who becomes unwell in the weeks after close contact with a Hendra-infected horse should seek medical advice promptly. Tests may be recommended to rule out Hendra virus as the cause of their illness. In most cases, a cause other than Hendra virus will be found. Sometimes the person will be admitted to hospital for monitoring while waiting for test results. If Hendra virus infection develops, the person is likely to be admitted to hospital for close monitoring and, if needed, intensive care.

There is no known specific treatment for Hendra virus infection. To date, antiviral medications have not been found to be effective in treating Hendra virus infection but three people have recovered from infections with general medical support.

Prevention:

Preventing horse infection

Research into development of a horse vaccine against Hendra virus is well under way.

Steps can be taken to decrease the risk of Hendra infection in horses. Protecting horse food from contamination by fluids of flying foxes, early isolation of a sick horse while awaiting test results, and attention to standard hygiene and cleaning practices are important. Detailed information is available from [Biosecurity Queensland](#) or call 13 25 23, and also from the [Queensland Horse Council](#).

Preventing human infection

Because it is possible that horses may be infectious with Hendra virus before actually becoming unwell, it is important to pay attention to standard hygiene practices in all contact with horses. Hands should be cleaned regularly whilst caring for horses, particularly before eating, smoking or touching the eyes, nose or mouth. Wounds should be covered with a waterproof dressing. Directly kissing a horse on the muzzle is strongly discouraged at any time, and definitely should not occur if the horse is sick or quarantined. The use of personal protective equipment is recommended when it is likely that a person will come into contact with body fluids from any horse. See [Biosecurity Queensland](#) website for more information.

If body fluids or manure from a horse gets on unprotected skin the area should be washed with soap and water as soon as possible. If the exposure involves a cut or puncture wound, gently encourage bleeding and then wash the area with soap and water. Where water is not available, wipe the area clean, then use a waterless cleanser or antiseptic. If eyes are contaminated then gently but thoroughly rinse open eyes with water or normal saline for at least 30 seconds. If body fluids get in the mouth, spit the fluid out and then rinse the mouth with water several times.

If a horse becomes unwell and Hendra virus infection may be a possibility, as few people as possible should care for the horse until Hendra virus infection is ruled out. It is strongly recommended that children are kept away from the horse. If close contact with the sick horse is considered essential, then appropriate personal protective equipment that prevents contamination of skin, eyes, nose or mouth by a horse's body fluids should be worn.

Although there is no evidence of human to human transmission, close contact with the secretions of a person who is unwell with possible Hendra virus infection should be avoided. In hospital, healthcare workers will take routine precautions which include the use of personal protective equipment. In home settings particular attention should be

Hendra Virus Infection

given to standard hygiene measures such as regular hand washing.

Notification

Suspected cases of Hendra virus infection in horses should be notified urgently to Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23 (during business hours) or the Emergency Animal Disease Watch Hotline on 1800 675 888 (24-hour hotline). In turn, Biosecurity Queensland will notify the appropriate public health unit of the situation if there is a high suspicion of Hendra virus infection.

Pathology laboratories are required to urgently notify all requests for Hendra virus testing in humans to the appropriate public health unit.

Help and Assistance

Assistance for human exposures to an infected horse

Help and assistance for human exposures to an infected horse When a horse is identified as having Hendra virus infection, the local public health unit will work closely with Biosecurity Queensland, the property owners and property managers to identify people who may have been exposed. If you consider you have had recent exposure to an infected horse and feel that you have not been identified, please telephone your nearest public health unit, which will be in the White Pages under Queensland Health; or contact 13 HEALTH.

For other information or assistance about Hendra virus infection in humans please contact 13 HEALTH.

Other resources

Biosecurity Queensland or call 13 25 23. Information about Hendra virus for the general public, horse owners, horse handlers and veterinarians. The latest version of the 'Guidelines for veterinarians handling potential Hendra virus infections in horses' is also available from this site.

Queensland Horse Council Information for horse owners and handlers.



What is Hendra virus?



Hendra virus was first isolated in 1994 in a racing stable in the suburb of Hendra, Brisbane. Hendra virus is a zoonotic disease, which means it can transfer from animals to people.

Hendra virus occasionally causes disease in horses and rarely causes disease in humans. It can be transferred from flying fox-to-horse, horse-to-horse and horse-to-human. Dealing with a Hendra virus infection is an important public health and workplace health and safety matter requiring careful management.

The scientific information available on the disease is not complete and research is being done to learn more about Hendra virus—particularly how it is transmitted from flying foxes to horses.

Facts about Hendra virus

The following are facts about Hendra virus:

- While Hendra virus is present in flying fox populations, the risk of horses being infected is very low.
- Hendra virus is not related to equine influenza or Australian bat lyssavirus.
- While cats and pigs have been infected experimentally with Hendra virus, the virus has not been known to occur naturally in these animals.
- **In previous situations where Hendra virus has been confirmed, no cases of infection have been found in animals other than horses.**
- The few cases of Hendra virus infection in humans have been the result of very close contact with infected horses. Body fluids (blood, respiratory secretions, saliva, urine etc.) from an infected horse can contain Hendra virus.
- There is no evidence of human-to-human or flying fox-to-human spread of Hendra virus.

- Since 1994, Hendra virus has been confirmed on 14 occasions, involving approximately 48 horses and seven humans.
- Hendra virus occurs naturally in flying foxes; **however, these animals should not be targeted for culling.** Flying foxes are a protected species and are critical to our environment. They pollinate our native trees and spread seeds. Without them, we wouldn't have our eucalypt forests, rainforests and melaleucas.

What do I look for in my horse?

Hendra virus can cause a broad range of signs in horses. **Hendra virus infection should be considered in any sick horse when the cause of illness is unknown and particularly where there is rapid onset of illness, fever, increased heart rate and rapid deterioration associated with either respiratory or neurological signs.** Occasionally, horses will survive Hendra virus infection.

Hendra virus is much more likely to occur in a single sick or dead horse rather than in a number of horses. In paddock situations to date, the majority of Hendra virus cases have involved one infected horse that died without any companion horses becoming infected. However, on several occasions one or more companion horses became infected after close contact with the first infected horse prior to or at the time of death.

It appears that Hendra virus has the potential to spread to other horses either through direct contact with infectious body fluids, or through indirect contact via contaminated equipment that could transfer body fluid from one horse to another.

Signs

The following signs have all been associated with Hendra virus cases, but not all of these signs will be found in any one infected horse:

- **rapid onset of illness**
- **increased body temperature/fever**
- **increased heart rate**
- **discomfort/weight shifting between legs**
- **depression**
- **rapid deterioration.**

Respiratory signs include:

- **respiratory distress**
- **increased respiratory rates**
- **nasal discharge at death—can be initially clear, progressing to stable white froth and/or stable blood-stained froth.**

Neurological signs include:

- **‘wobbly gait’**
- **apparent loss of vision in one or both eyes**
- **aimless walking in a dazed state**
- **head tilting and circling**
- **muscle twitching**
- **urinary incontinence**
- **inability to rise.**

A range of other observations have also been recorded in individual horses infected with Hendra virus.

The following points, when combined with the above signs, could also support suspicion of Hendra virus:

- there are multiple deaths over a period of time or a high rate of deaths occurs within 48 hours
- some cases have initially been reported as colic
- there are flying foxes in the area, although a lack of sightings does not exclude Hendra virus.

If you see these signs:

- Call your local veterinarian or Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23.
- Shower, shampoo your hair and change your clothes if you have handled a sick horse.
- Stay away from other horses.

Reducing the risk

Take the following steps to reduce the risk of people and horses becoming infected with Hendra virus. This advice is based on our current understanding of the virus.

- It is strongly advised that you avoid contact with sick horses and their blood and body fluids until a veterinarian has excluded Hendra virus infection as the cause of illness.
- If contact with a sick horse is absolutely unavoidable you should seek advice from your veterinarian about appropriate personal protective equipment such as gloves, protective eyewear and a face mask.
- If you have had contact with sick horses, shower with soap, wash your hair and put on clean clothes and footwear before handling other horses.
- Remove any clothing contaminated with body fluids from a sick horse carefully to ensure there is no contact with your facial area, particularly your eyes, mouth and nose.
- After handling any horse wash your hands with soap and water and dry or use hand wipes and waterless hand hygiene solution.
- Place horse feed and water containers under cover if possible.
- Do not place horse feed and water containers under trees, particularly if flying foxes are attracted to those trees.
- Do not use feed that might be attractive to flying foxes if they are known to be in the area. Fruit and vegetables (e.g. apples, carrots) or anything sweet (e.g. molasses) may attract flying foxes.
- If possible, remove horses from paddocks where flowering/fruited trees have resulted in a temporary surge in flying fox numbers. Return the horses after the trees have stopped flowering/fruited.
- If it is not possible to remove horses from paddocks, try to temporarily remove your horses during times of peak flying fox activity (usually at dusk and during the night).
- Keep any sick horse isolated from other horses, people and animals until you have obtained a veterinarian’s opinion.
- Do not allow visiting horse practitioners (farriers etc.) to work on sick horses. They should only work on healthy horses.

- If there is more than one horse on your property, handle unaffected horses first and then only handle sick horses after taking appropriate precautions.
- Make sure gear exposed to any body fluids from horses is cleaned and disinfected before it is used on another horse. This includes things like halters, lead ropes and twitches. Talk to your vet about cleaning agents and disinfectants to use.
- Seek veterinary advice before bringing any sick horse onto your property.
- Do not take sick horses to events such as competitions or Pony Club.

Personal safety

People have been exposed to Hendra virus while handling infected horses (including sick live horses and dead horses at necropsy examinations). A major problem has arisen from handlers not considering Hendra virus at the time, resulting in exposure occurring before the horse was diagnosed.

People need to be aware and carefully consider their safety whenever Hendra virus is suspected. Hendra virus can cause a life-threatening illness. You should therefore be cautious with sick horses and always ensure the personal safety of yourself and others:

- In particular, treat blood and other body fluids (especially lung and nasal discharges, saliva and urine) and tissue as potentially infectious and take precautions to prevent any direct contact with these.
- Protect all exposed skin, mucous membranes and eyes from direct contact and cover cuts and abrasions with a water-resistant dressing when handling sick horses.
- Always maintain good hand hygiene after handling horses.

Personal protective equipment (PPE)

Personal protective equipment (PPE) is an important part of personal safety when dealing with potential Hendra virus situations.

PPE items require proper instruction and training in their wearing and use. Unless you have been trained in the proper use of PPE, your best defence is to isolate your horse, wash any contamination off yourself and wait for professional help.

If your property is quarantined because of Hendra virus, Biosecurity Queensland officers will work with you to ensure a biosecurity program is put in place. They will also provide advice on the appropriate PPE to prevent exposure to horse blood and body fluids.

Who do I call?

If you, as a horse owner or carer, suspect Hendra virus infection, you should immediately contact your local veterinarian. If you are unable to reach your veterinarian, you should notify a government veterinarian or Biosecurity Queensland officer (there is a legal obligation to do this). If it appears that human illness may be associated with the case, you should also include this information. Remember, notification is also an opportunity to seek professional advice.

Notify suspected Hendra virus cases by contacting:

- Biosecurity Queensland on **13 25 23** (during business hours)
- Emergency Animal Disease Watch Hotline on **1800 675 888** (24-hour hotline).

Clearly explain that you are calling to notify a suspected case of Hendra virus infection. The person you speak to will go through the case with you and help you have the case investigated (if needed).

Following notification, and after further investigation, Biosecurity Queensland will decide whether the property in question should be quarantined to stop horses moving off the premises—possibly carrying infection with them.

If Biosecurity Queensland has a high suspicion of Hendra virus infection, or if Hendra virus infection is confirmed by laboratory testing, Biosecurity Queensland will notify Queensland Health of the situation. Queensland Health will coordinate risk assessments and appropriate follow-up for people involved.

Biosecurity Queensland will also notify the appropriate professional bodies, including the Australian Veterinary Association and Equine Veterinarians Australia. Private details will not be released in these notifications.

If any person is concerned about their health at any time, they should seek medical advice.

Contact your GP, local Emergency Department or local Public Health Unit if you have concerns about possible exposure of people to a horse with Hendra virus infection. General enquiries about Hendra virus infection in humans may be directed to the Queensland Health Hotline on **13HEALTH (13 43 25 84)**.

For information about managing the risk of Hendra virus in the workplace contact Workplace Health and Safety Queensland on 1300 369 915 or visit www.worksafe.qld.gov.au

Workplace Health and Safety Queensland

SAFETY ALERT**Hendra virus – information for horse properties and other horse-related businesses****Purpose**

The purpose of this alert is to inform horse properties and other horse-related businesses of the risks surrounding Hendra virus and preventative measures to minimise the risk of human infection.

Background

Hendra virus is a rare disease of horses and humans that can cause a serious and life threatening illness. The natural hosts of Hendra virus are bats (flying foxes) which can then pass the virus onto horses. Human infection results from close contact with the blood, body fluids and tissues of infected horses. There is no evidence of human to human spread of Hendra virus.

Hendra virus infection of horses can include rapid onset of illness, increased body temperature, increased heart rate, discomfort or weight shifting between legs, depression, respiratory and neurological signs. Not all of these signs will be found in any one infected horse.

Risk

Hendra virus incidents are rare. However, the potential seriousness of the disease for both humans and horses requires that workplace health and safety measures, to prevent infection, should be implemented at workplaces where there is occupational contact with horses.

Sound hygiene and biosecurity (animal disease control) measures should be adopted as a routine work practice for all horse contact.

Prevention

Hendra virus requires careful risk management. You should develop a plan for responding to a suspect or confirmed case of Hendra virus at your workplace, including how you will minimise the risk to yourself, your workers and others such as visiting horse practitioners (farriers, etc.) You should then train your workers in the implementation of the plan.

You should also consider the following measures:

- Take steps to protect horses from becoming infected with Hendra virus by:
 - placing feed bins and water troughs under cover
 - avoiding planting trees that attract flying foxes in or near horse paddocks
 - removing horses from paddocks if flying foxes are feeding on trees or roosting in that paddock.
- Ensure safe systems of work as a routine work practice for all contact with horses, their blood and body fluids and associated equipment. This includes:
 - regular hand hygiene
 - maintaining standards of cleanliness and stable hygiene
 - cleaning and disinfecting equipment that has been in contact with horses' body fluids.
- If you have a sick horse, isolate the horse from other horses, people and animals (e.g. remove companion animals to another area) until you have obtained a veterinary opinion.

- Avoid close contact with a sick horse where possible. If this is unavoidable, consider the horse's blood and body fluids as potentially infectious and take precautions to prevent contact with these including:
 - using personal protective equipment (PPE) to protect your clothing, exposed skin and face from contact with the horse's blood and body fluids
 - training workers and yourselves in how to use unfamiliar PPE, such as particulate respirators
 - covering cuts and abrasions with a water-resistant dressing
 - following instructions for biosecurity and personal safety provided by a Biosecurity Queensland officer or veterinarian.
- If you have handled a sick horse, and before contact with other horses:
 - wash off any contamination with plenty of soap and water
 - shower and wash your hair
 - change your clothes.
- Arrange your activities so that you have contact with the sick horse last.
- Always consider Hendra virus as a possible cause of illness in horses. Notify suspected Hendra virus cases by contacting Biosecurity Queensland on **13 25 23** or the Emergency Animal Disease Watch Hotline on **1800 675 888**. There is a legal obligation to notify.
- Seek medical advice or ring Queensland Health **13 HEALTH** (1300 43 25 84) if you or a worker has had contact with a horse suspected or confirmed as being infected with Hendra virus.

Further information

For more information on workplace health and safety relating to occupational diseases, visit www.worksafe.qld.gov.au or call the Workplace Health and Safety Infoline on 1300 369 915.

Download the alert on: [Hendra virus - Information for veterinarians](#).

[Complete the self-survey for managing occupation Hendra virus risks for horse properties and other horse-related businesses](#) (PDF, 55 kB)

More information on Hendra virus in horses and biosecurity is available from Biosecurity Queensland www.biosecurity.qld.gov.au, call 13 25 23, or your veterinarian.

Visit the Biosecurity Queensland website to download more information for:

- veterinarians
- horse owners
- horse industries
- communities.

For more information on Hendra virus in humans, contact Queensland Health www.health.qld.gov.au or 13 HEALTH (1300 43 25 84).

Information is also available from the Queensland Horse Council <http://www.qldhorsecouncil.com>

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