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EQUINE FLU OUTBREAK GUIDANCE FOR MEMBERS MAY 2026

You will be aware of the recent outbreak of equine flu across the country. We are issuing this note to members and Event Organisers to enable them to assist in reducing the risk of spreading flu at British Carriagedriving events.

Symptoms of Equine Flu:

- * Persistent dry, harsh cough
- * Nasal discharge
- * Unusual lethargy
- * Temperature of above 38.5°C

Laboratory testing for Equine Flu is free, it is a simple nasal swab and should be done within 5 days of symptoms appearing.

What we are asking:

- All drivers bring their equine passport with them to any events. It is the law to travel the passport with an equine.
- All equines will have to have proof of a full course or a booster vaccination within the last 11 months and preferably within the last 6 months. Vaccinations must have been done more than 7 days before attendance. Event Organisers will be checking passports.
- Any horses or ponies who have not had a flu vaccination within 12 months should not be allowed to attend any British Carriagedriving events.
- Have a supply of disposable gloves.
- **We ask the stewards who are checking harness NOT to touch the animals or the harness, they may ask the driver or their groom for clarification if they need to look at something specific – please understand if you are asked to do this.**

What you can do: This is a droplet spread virus!

- Minimise contact between multiple equines and wash your hands between each interaction with a different equine other than your own. This is particularly important if you are helping others to put to or grooming for your friends.
- **Do not share water buckets or feed bowls with any other equine or camper.**
- **Do not dip a water bucket/container that your horse has already drunk from into a communal water trough to fill it up or put communal hose into your horse's bucket.**
- **Have well-spaced apart pens between equines from different yards.**
- **Do not graze your animal in any area other than the pen you have set out – sharing grazing on 'common areas' will spread any infection.**



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- **We know that handwashing with hot water can be a challenge at an event so please use sanitisers or cold water and soap whenever you can.**
- **Taking your equine's temperature for the 3 days prior to an event (twice daily) will warn you of any temperature spike (38.5°C)**

IMPORTANT POINTS TO NOTE:

- Most infected animals have NOT been vaccinated or have an unknown vaccination history
- Recently vaccinated animals are unlikely to develop the flu but may be carriers
- All vaccines currently on the market provide good cover against the current strains of flu
- [Equine Infectious Disease Surveillance](#) shows where current outbreaks are

Thank you for helping us all to keep this outbreak at bay.