Announcement from Capri Stiles, President

Pennsylvania Equine Council

The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture has issued an Interstate Quarantine Order regarding the Neurologic Form of Equine Herpes Virus (EHV-1), also known as Equine Herpesvirus Myeloencephalopathy (EHM). As President of the Pennsylvania Equine Council, I want to ensure that all members of our community are aware of the required disease-mitigation measures and understand their role in protecting horses across the Commonwealth.

According to the Order, EHM is designated as a dangerous transmissible disease under Pennsylvania's Domestic Animal Law, and EHV-1 is recognized as a highly contagious virus capable of spreading through direct and indirect contact, aerosols, and contaminated equipment. Clinical signs range from mild incoordination to severe paralysis and even death. **[pa.gov]**

Key Requirements & Restrictions

1. Restrictions on Importation

Under Title 7, Section 3.3 of the Pennsylvania Code, horses affected by or recently exposed to EHV-1 may not be imported into Pennsylvania unless a permit is issued by the Department of Agriculture. **[pa.gov]**

2. Mandatory Health Documentation

Interstate health certificates must include:

- Herd health status from the state of origin
- A statement from an accredited veterinarian confirming that animals are free from evidence of infectious, contagious, or parasitic disease and have not recently been exposed
- These requirements fall under Title 7, Section 3.4 of the Pennsylvania Code. **[pa.gov]**

3. Importance of Isolation & Biosecurity

Because no reliable method exists to prevent the neurologic form of the disease (EHM), strict management practices and isolation protocols are essential for reducing risk. Sound practices—such as separating newly arrived horses and monitoring for symptoms—are strongly encouraged. **[pa.gov]**

What This Means for Pennsylvania Horse Owners

These measures are in place to protect all horses in Pennsylvania. Whether you own one horse or manage a large facility, it is critical to:

- Review your farm's biosecurity protocols
- Consult with your veterinarian about vaccination programs
- Avoid unnecessary interstate movement of horses
- Follow all documentation requirements before traveling to or from Pennsylvania

Our Commitment

The Pennsylvania Equine Council stands ready to support horse owners, veterinarians, show organizers, and equine businesses as we navigate this heightened disease-control period. Your cooperation is crucial in limiting the spread of EHV-1 and protecting Pennsylvania's equine population.

For the complete details, please review the official Interstate Quarantine Order issued by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture:

https://www.pa.gov/content/dam/copapwp-pagov/en/pda/documents/animals/ahdservices/diseases/documents/ehv-1 interstate quarantine order.pdf

Together, we will uphold the health, safety, and vitality of our equine community.

Capri Stiles

President, Pennsylvania Equine Council

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