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Memo

To: Alberta Ag Fieldmen

From: The Office of the Chief Provincial Veterinarian

November 21, 2025

Subject: EHV-1 Notice to Veterinarians

Equine Herpesvirus 1 (EHV-1) is responsible for the clinical disease known as Equine Herpesvirus 1 Myeloencephalopathy (EHM). EHM is not a federally reportable disease in Canada therefore, no actions are taken by the CFIA when this disease is diagnosed in Canada or in any other country. EHM is a provincially notifiable disease in Alberta which means that confirmed cases must be reported to the [Office of the Chief Provincial Veterinarian](#) (OCPV) as determined by the [Reportable and Notifiable Diseases Regulation](#). Restrictions on movement or quarantines are not placed by the OCPV but rather, cases of EHM are monitored to establish prevalence or trends, and notices may be sent out to relevant industry groups for awareness.

In 2023 the OCPV was notified of four cases of EHM in Alberta and in 2024, there was one notification. The OCPV has recently been made aware of one case in 2025. This case was also reported to the [Canadian Animal Health Surveillance System](#). Information on cases of EHM in the United States may be found on the [Equine Disease Communication Center](#) website.

On November 8, an 11-year-old gelding with no history of travel outside of Alberta or Canada developed acute neurologic signs, ataxia, inability to urinate or defecate, and was diagnosed with EHM. The horse was admitted to an equine hospital where it was placed in isolation. The horse is recovering and has regained its ability to urinate and defecate but is still exhibiting mild neurological signs. The horse has been vaccinated annually with a vaccine that contains both EHV-1 and EHV-4 components. This demonstrates that while vaccination may impart some protection in some horses, the risk of clinical disease still exists for individual or groups of vaccinated horses. Strict biosecurity measures are another tool to prevent introduction and spread of EHV-1 and the horse's home stable is following [American Association of Equine Practitioners General Biosecurity Guidelines](#).

The OCPV has also been made aware that several cases are being detected in the US. As of November 21, fifteen cases had been reported in the US. Some events or shows are being cancelled to minimize risk of horses becoming exposed and to help reduce the spread while others are planning to proceed. Those planning to attend should reach out to organizers to check on event status, risk, and biosecurity measures in place.

Resources for veterinarians and horse owners:

Government of Alberta [Equine herpesvirus-1](#)

Canadian Food Inspection Agency [Equine herpes myeloencephalopathy \(EHM\) fact sheet](#)

Texas Animal Health Commission [Equine herpes myeloencephalopathy Fact Sheet](#)