



Thursday, June 15, 2023

Subject: Vesicular Stomatitis Update - Modifications to Policy

To: Competition Managers, Competition Secretaries, Competition Contacts, and Licensed Officials

Since May 17, 2023, the fly vectors continue to spread vesicular stomatitis (VS) virus across California, with confirmed premises in Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, and San Diego Counties. The virus is expected to continue to spread in California through the summer and likely into the fall. USEF continues to work with state and federal animal health officials to evaluate the situation and modify biosecurity requirements for licensed competitions as appropriate.

Based on the current situation and feedback, the following clarifications to USEF required biosecurity measures for competitions with horses from a VS-affected state are in effect:

1. Restriction of entries is ONLY permitted in unaffected states.
2. Definition of horse from VS-affected state: A horse is considered originating from a VS-affected state if the horse has resided in a USDA-confirmed VS-affected state or been in a USDA-confirmed VS-affected state within 14 days prior to entry onto competition grounds.
3. Optional VS Health Declaration: Competition management may elect to use a [USEF VS Health Declaration Document](#) as a method for owner/trainer to document residency outside a VS-affected state for the prior 14 days.
4. Stabling of horses from VS-affected states: USEF recommends but does not require separate stabling of horses from VS-affected states.
5. Official State Issued or approved Timed Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI) (Health Document): An official state issued or approved timed certificate of veterinary inspection (health certificate) is required to be issued within 5 days prior to entry to a competition venue.
 - a. **MUST** be an official state issued CVI document (health certificate).
6. On-site examinations to be performed by licensed veterinarian or trained technician: Competitions have the option to utilize trained technicians for on-site arrival examinations. A trained technician is one designated by the veterinarian as trained or one who provides proof of completion of an online USEF training module (to be posted to USEF website by July 1, 2023).

As a reminder, all competitions must submit a [VS Acknowledgment Form](#) documenting how they choose to handle horses from VS-affected states at their events. For June events, the form on the website must be utilized by competition management to notify the federation. The completed form shall be emailed to dates@usef.org. For events after July 1, 2023, please hold

off completing this paper form, as we expect to have an electronic version of the form on the USEF Competition Manager dashboard soon.

As this situation continues to evolve, USEF will post updates, information, and resource documents to <https://www.usef.org/compete/resources-forms/competition-management/competition-safety-biosecurity>.

Protecting our equine athletes is a joint effort.
Your time and efforts to support healthy horses and healthy competitions are appreciated.

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