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## Attention Competitors

### **VESICULAR STOMATITIS SITUATION:**

Currently, California is the ONLY VS-affected state. The virus is expected to continue to spread northward in California. USEF competitors and competition management should prepare for the VS outbreak to continue for at least the summer and possibly into fall due to vector and climatic conditions.

### **FOR USEF COMPETITION PURPOSES:**

A horse is considered from a VS-affected state if the horse has been in a VS Affected State within 14 days prior to entry onto the competition grounds.

NOTE: USEF is proactively implementing requirements for all counties in a VS-affected state. USEF recognizes that California is a large state but there is significant concerns with the virus quickly spreading (5 counties in 3 weeks) and the lack of surveillance in the rest of the state. In addition, some international requirements for movement are at the state level. Based on these factors, the USEF measures are implemented at the state level.

### **Competition Horses from VS affected state MUST follow the following protocols for entering a USEF licensed competition:**

1. **Not originate from a quarantined premises or one with suspect vesicular lesions.**
2. **Must be accompanied by an official state issued or approved certificate of veterinary inspection (CVI) (health certificate), which includes a VS statement and issued **within 5 days of entry to competition** by a licensed veterinarian who has examined the horse. Only an Official state issued CVI document will be accepted.**
3. **Be free of vesicular lesions upon entry:** All horses from a VS Affected State will be inspected at time of arrival by a veterinarian and/or technician. Any horse with vesicular lesions will not be permitted entry along with any other horse which travels with the horse with suspect vesicular lesions.
4. **Be monitored daily while on competition grounds:** All horses from a VS affected state will be required to maintain a temperature log with twice daily temperature recordings. Additionally, horses shall be monitored daily for vesicular lesions. Any temperature over 101.5°F or vesicular lesions should be reported to show management and/or veterinarian. Logs and horses will be monitored by competition management for the duration of the event.
5. **Horses with Vesicular Lesions will be Removed:** Horses with vesicular lesions will be placed immediately in isolation and removed from the premises under the direction of

show veterinarian and/or state animal health official. Once horse has been removed the area should be cleaned and disinfected.

6. **Recommend individual vector control measures be implemented.** Flyspray, fly wipes and fly covering are recommended to be utilized to prevent your horse's exposure to potential infected vectors.

**Please note:** Individuals intending to have horses travel interstate or internationally should review the requirements for movement into and out of each state or country the horses may travel through, as many requirements have changed due to the vesicular stomatitis situation.

For the latest information on the VS situation or USEF protocols visit <https://www.usef.org/compete/resources-forms/competition-management/competition-safety-biosecurity>

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United States Equestrian Federation, Inc. 4001 Wing Commander Way, Lexington, KY 40511 859-810-8733 [webmaster@usef.org](mailto:webmaster@usef.org)