

- o **Any equine exposed to a clinical case must have two consecutive negative PCR samples, 3 days apart beginning seven days after the last known case, at the owner's expense.**

Regular updates regarding this investigation will be available on the Delaware Department of Agriculture's website www.dda.delaware.gov .

EHV-1 information from USDA Animal and Plant Health inspection Service (APHIS):

- **Equine herpesvirus type 1 (EHV-1) typically causes a disease of horses called equine rhinopneumonitis, or "Rhino". It is found in horses worldwide but does not affect humans. EHV-1 usually causes respiratory symptoms with fever, but it can also cause abortion, nervous system (neurologic) disease, or death.**
- **EHV-1 has several different strains, and new strains are thought to develop from natural genetic mutations of the herpesvirus. These strains or mutations are thought to be responsible for some outbreaks of the neurologic form of the disease. The neurologic form can cause a wide variety of symptoms, including incoordination, weakness or paralysis of the hind limbs and tail, incontinence, and loss of skin sensation. The horse may become paralyzed, or go down and be unable to get up in the hind end. The paralysis can be progressive and in some cases, the animal may die.**
- **The virus can spread via contact with an infected animal, through the air, via contaminated equipment, or via a handler's clothing and hands. An infected animal can be latently infected and sporadically shed the virus, showing only mild (sometimes unnoticeable) clinical signs.**
- **Veterinarians and horse owners should continue to quarantine suspect and diagnosed cases. Using strict biosecurity measures in day-to-day procedures, even when disease is not suspected, is very important in preventing the introduction and spread of infectious diseases. Information on equine biosecurity practices can be found on the AAEP website at:**

http://www.aaep.org/pdfs/control_guidelines/Biosecurity_instructions%201.pdf

For more information on EHV-1, please contact the State Veterinarian's Office at the Delaware Department of Agriculture (DDA) or check the DDA's website:

**Phone: (800) 282-8685 (DE Only)
(302) 698-4500**

Fax: (302) 697-6287

[Http://www.dda.delaware.gov](http://www.dda.delaware.gov)