

Biosecurity alert

Hendra virus – information for industry

13 July 2011

Current Situation

Hendra virus in Kuranda

One property is currently under quarantine at Kuranda in North Queensland after test results came back positive for Hendra virus on Tuesday 12 July 2011.

A private veterinarian attended the sick horse over the weekend and took appropriate samples for testing.

There are an estimated 36 horses on the property that will be tested by Biosecurity Queensland today and monitored closely.

There is no connection between the horses or properties in this incident to the incidents at Beaudesert, Boonah, Park Ridge or in New South Wales..

Hendra virus in South East Queensland

The first rounds of test results taken from seven horses in the Park Ridge area have all returned negative for Hendra virus.

There are three rounds of testing in total, the second and third rounds of testing will take place over the coming month.

Horses located on quarantined properties in the Beaudesert area will undergo their second round of testing this week.

The total number of properties quarantined as a result of Hendra virus in Queensland is nine.

There are 76 horses currently being monitored and tested for Hendra virus on quarantined properties in Queensland.

Taskforce

Premier Anna Bligh announced on Sunday 10 July 2011 a taskforce, comprising Queensland and New South Wales biosecurity and health experts as well as CSIRO, to form an alliance to fight Hendra virus.

The purpose of the taskforce will be to analyse the situation in both states to better understand the incidents, identify areas for further collaboration and undertaking longer-term planning for managing the disease and its impacts.

Community Engagement

A community engagement program in the Cairns region has commenced today.

Check the [community engagement calendar](#) page on the Biosecurity Queensland website for dates and locations.

Movement of horses

The only properties that have movement restrictions for Hendra virus are the nine properties under quarantine. As Hendra virus is not highly contagious, the Queensland horse industry is not subject to movement restrictions.

Horse owners around the State should be vigilant throughout the year for signs consistent with Hendra virus.

Best practice – reducing the risk on your horse property

There are a number of measures horse owners can take to reduce the risk of horses becoming infected with Hendra virus.

Ensure that sick horses are isolated from other horses, people and animals until a veterinarian's opinion is obtained.

Horse feed and water containers should be removed from under trees. If possible, place feed and water containers under a shelter.

Horses should be removed from paddocks where flowering/fruited trees have resulted in a temporary surge in flying fox numbers. Horses should be returned after the trees have stopped flowering/fruited.

If it is not possible to remove horses from paddocks, try to temporarily remove your horses during times of peak flying fox activity (usually at dusk and during the night) or fence off access to trees that are identified as attractive to flying foxes

More information

Notify suspected Hendra virus cases by contacting Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23 (during business hours) or the Emergency Animal Disease Watch Hotline on 1800 675 888 (24-hour hotline). More information is available at www.biosecurity.qld.gov.au

If you have missed any information that has been previously distributed by Biosecurity Queensland, visit the [News and Updates](#) page on the website.

For human related enquiries, contact the Queensland Health Hotline on 13HEALTH (13 43 25 84).

For workplace health and safety enquiries contact Workplace Health and Safety Queensland on 1300 369 915.

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Dr. Rick Symons
Chief Veterinary Officer
Biosecurity Queensland