

# BIOSECURITY GUIDE: KEEPING YOUR HORSES HEALTHY

Anytime horses or their owners leave the farm to compete, breed, train, or go to a veterinary hospital they can be exposed to a variety of disease agents, increasing the risk of spreading diseases. By adding these practices to your herd management routine, you can mitigate the risk of disease such as equine herpes myeloencephalopathy (EHM), equine infectious anemia (EIA), equine piroplasmosis, equine viral arteritis (EVA) and equine strangles. Biosecurity is the key to enjoying traveling with your horses and keeping your horse healthy!

## Leaving the Stable

- Know the signs of a sick horse. Horses that may be sick should not travel to shows or events.
- When moving your horses, use your own trailer. Do not haul your horse with horses from other farms.
- If you must use someone else's trailer, clean and disinfect it before loading your horse.
- Prevent nose-to-nose contact.
- Do not share equipment (e.g., needles, water and feed buckets, brushes, or sponges).
- Wash your hands after helping other people with their horses.
- Do not let other people pet your horses, especially those with horses at home or people who have been out of the country in the past two weeks.

## Returning to the Stable

- Clean and disinfect tack, boots, equipment, and grooming supplies before returning.
- Upon your return, shower and put on clean clothes and shoes.
- If possible, keep horses that were off the farm separate from your other horses for at least two weeks. Prevent any nose-to-nose contact.
- When feeding and doing chores, work with the returning horses last. Wear boots and coveralls, and remove them before working with other horses.
- Wash your hands often.

## Adding a New Horse

- Keep new horses separate from other horses for 30 days. Do not use the same pitchforks, grooming tools or feed and water buckets on any horse but the new one.
- Work with the new horse last each day or wear boots and coveralls that can be removed before working with other horses.
- Always wash your hands with soap and water between groups of horses.

*These biosecurity recommendations are for general disease prevention. For specific equine disease prevention practices, please contact your private veterinarian and refer to MBAH disease factsheets.*

