



**THE NAVAJO NATION
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

P.O. Box 4889 Window Rock, Arizona 86515 | PH: (928)871-6605 | FAX: (928)871-6679



**DR. BUU NYGREN
NAVAJO NATION PRESIDENT**

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Navajo Nation Update on the EVH-1 Outbreak

November 20, 2025

The horses which attended the 2025 WPRA World Finals, the Elite Barrel Racing event in Waco, TX on November 5-9, 2025 and the Barrel Futurities of America event in Guthrie, OK on November 17-18, 2025 have been exposed to EHM. The Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) and Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry (ODAFF) confirmed positive cases on November 18, 2025 the horses that were confirmed positive attended one or a combination of events mentioned.

These events were attended by horses from many states, including New Mexico, Utah, Colorado and Arizona. The quarantine of horses that attended these events was not employed therefore the Navajo Nation must mitigate exposure risks to the best of our abilities. With one confirmed case in New Mexico in Dona Ana County.

The Arizona State Veterinarian has issued the following movement restrictions which the Navajo Nation will align with:

“1. Interstate Certificates of Veterinary Inspection (ICVI), which would normally be valid for 30 days will now only be valid for 5 days if the original state has had an EHM / Equine Herpes Virus-1 (EHV-1) detection in the previous 30 days. Those seeking to import horses into Arizona should consult with their State Animal Health Official (origin state) to determine if their state has confirmed cases or not.

2. Concurrently, all ICVI's will also require the following supplemental statements:

- a. The equids examined and represented on this certificate have no signs of respiratory disease, fever or any other clinical signs that may be consistent with EHV.
- b. The equids referenced on this certificate do not originate from a facility currently subject to movement restrictions due to EHV investigation or that would be considered dangerous contacts to potentially exposed or infected horses within the previous 21 days.

3. All current Extended Equine Certificates of Veterinary Inspection (EECVI) are cancelled and EECVI availability will be paused for the next 30 days at which time the EHV situation will be re-evaluated. In the interim, ICVI's needed for movement purposes will be required as described above for importation into Arizona. For Arizona origin equine exports going to other states, please contact the respective destination State Animal Health Official for current import requirements.”



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The Navajo Nation Department of Agriculture and Navajo Nation Veterinary Program will closely monitor Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado and Utah State Veterinarian restrictions and guidance. Measures to prevent contact from exposure to the virus and increased biosecurity overall are recommended. EHV-1 has proven to be acute with a rapid progression and high clinical severity unfortunately several mortalities have been reported in horses suspected of having EHM.

David C. Manuelito, DVM
Navajo Nation Veterinarian

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

Ms. Jesse Jim, Department Manager III
Navajo Nation Department of Agriculture

W. Mike Halona, Executive Director
Division of Natural Resources



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Recommended Protocol:

EHV-1 spreads easily through direct horse-to-horse contact, aerosolized droplets from coughing or snorting, contaminated equipment, shared tack, trailers, stalls, and even through people who handle multiple horses. Testing can be performed with nasal swabs and whole-blood samples, but exposure can yield false negatives. Labs receiving high volumes of samples may also experience delays that extend turnaround times.

Clinical signs of EHM in horses may include:

- Lethargy
- Nasal discharge
- Discharge from the eyes or nose
- Swelling of the legs
- Lack of coordination
- Hindquarter weakness
- Leaning or resting against a surface to maintain balance
- Urine dribbling
- Diminished tail tone
- Penile paralysis
- Head tilt
- Abortion in pregnant mares

It is important to remember these signs are not specific to EHM and diagnostic testing is required to confirm infection. If you suspect your horse has been exposed to EHV-1, contact your local veterinarian.

To avoid the spread:

- Wash your hands and use hand sanitizer before and after working with a horse.
- Disinfect clothing and footwear before and after working with a horse.
- Wash and disinfect any items – feed/water buckets, grooming gear, saddles, and other tack that horses have touched or might touch.
- Avoid walking through or visiting other barns or facilities with horses.

Disinfection protocols remain central to containment. Complete cleaning of trailers, buckets, and tack by first removing all organic material, followed by a 1:10 bleach solution or other quaternary ammonium, accelerated peroxide, iodophor, or peroxygen disinfectant with label-specific contact times. Because the virus is so easily spread through contaminated surfaces, stalls, and human clothing, sanitation must be thorough.

Vaccination remains key. The American Association of Equine Practitioners stress that vaccinating exposed horses is not recommended. Horses without known exposure should remain current on core vaccinations.



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Additional Resources:

- Equine Herpesvirus Fact Sheet <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/livestock-poultry-disease/equine/herpesvirus>
- EHV1 & EHV4 Factsheet <https://aaep.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/EHV1-4-guidelines-2021.pdf>
- Ryan Wolker DVM, MVetSc, DACVS State Veterinarian (November 19, 2025) (Memorandum) "*Risk mitigation following a multistate Equine Herpes Myeloencephalopathy (EHM) outbreak linked to TX and OK equine events*"

If you suspect your horses may have been exposed, or if a fever (>102.5°F) or other signs consistent with EHM develop, contact your veterinarian.

- Animal Haven Clinic – Farmington, NM tel:5053258829
- Farmington Veterinary Clinic – Farmington, NM tel:5053257462
- Aspen Veterinarian Clinic – Flagstaff, AZ tel:9285262423
- Airport Animal Clinic – Grants, NM tel:5052872763
- Dr. Kamper – Alpaca Vet Flagstaff, AZ tel: 928-699-1338
- Dr. Adrienne Ruby – Dilkon, AZ tel:9285216241
- Dr. Abby Reidhead – Holbrook, AZ tel: 928-524-9928
- Cedar Ridge Vet Hospital – Taylor, tel: AZ 928-536-4153
- Rez Solution, Navajo Nation – tel: 928-730-8262
- Desert View Mobile Veterinary – tel:(928) 283-6184