



January 17, 2017

## New Orleans Fairgrounds Racetrack Incident Plan Addendum

The LDAF, USDA, LSRC, LSP, track veterinarians, disease consultants and New Orleans Fairgrounds personnel have been monitoring the incident since the index EHM case was diagnosed on 12/26/16. The goal of all regulatory parties involved with this incident was to prevent the spread of the disease to other horses on the racetrack and to rapidly identify any exposed horses that may have contracted the disease. To accomplish these goals, mandatory monitoring of all horses by recording rectal temperatures twice daily, reporting of temperatures above 101.5 F, and enhanced biosecurity were instituted. Our surveillance of all Fairgrounds horses over the last 21 days has shown the following:

- **Barn 14 (12-26-17):** 1 horse with neurologic clinical signs was sampled and tested positive for the EHV-1 neuropathogenic type. The animal was subsequently euthanized and sent to LADDL where it was confirmed by necropsy.
- **Barn 14 (12-30-17):** 1 horse developed fever; was isolated and sampled. The animal tested positive for EHV-1 neuropathogenic type.
- **Barn 36 (12-31-17):** 1 horse developed fever, hind limb paresis and nystagmus; was isolated and sampled. The animal tested positive for EHV-1 wild type. Out of caution and due to the presence of neurologic symptoms, this case was treated as an EHM.
- **Barn Receiving, 47, 4, 30:** Horses developed fever; were sampled and subsequently tested positive for EHV-1 wild type.
- **Barn 45:** Horse was tested as a precaution during a prepurchase exam and was found to be positive for EHV-1 wild type.

All EHV-1 strains have the ability to cause EHM, and EHV-1 wild type is also reportable. Therefore all EHV-1 cases were treated the same, isolating the positive horses and placing the barn of origin under quarantine.

Based on this surveillance, LDAF and disease consultants have assigned a “high risk” status to the two barns, #14 and #36, that contained horses with neurologic clinical signs. The Receiving Barn is of concern due to the potential exposure of temporary housed horses (less than 24 hours) to a febrile horse tested positive for EHV-1 wild type.

Release testing of the “High Risk” barns and the Receiving barn yielded:

- **Barn 14:** 19 horses out of 44 tested positive for EHV-1 wild type

- **Barn 36:** 9 horses out of 41 tested positive for EHV-1 wild type
- **Receiving Barn:** 2 horses out of 17 tested positive for EHV-1 wild type

Though numerous horses tested positive for EHV-1 wild type in the “High Risk” barns, the horses have been largely asymptomatic. No neurologic symptoms consistent with EHM have been observed since the clinical horse was isolated from Barn 36. The isolated horse from Barn 36 is recovering uneventfully and neurologic symptoms regressed rapidly following treatment.

Based on the absence of horses with neurological signs consistent with EHM since the index horse was removed from Barn 36, LDAF and infectious disease experts believe the neuropathogenic strain of EHV-1 has been contained and the following addendum to the New Orleans Fairgrounds Racetrack Incident Plan has been developed.

### **Unaffected barns**

Unaffected barns will continue to have enhanced biosecurity and be monitored by rectal temperatures twice daily. Any horse that develops a fever exceeding 101.5°F will be examined by the attending veterinarian for neurologic signs consistent with EHM which would initiate testing for EHV-1. Quarantine release without testing will be available 21 days after the last neurological case was isolated and removed, excepting that no horses within the barn develop neurologic clinical signs consistent with EHM and/or test positive for EHV-1. **The earliest release date for unaffected barns will be 01-21-2017.**

### **Affected Barns (Barn # Receiving, 47, 4, 30 and 45)**

These barns will continue to be monitored by rectal temperatures twice daily and the veterinarian of record should be contacted for animal evaluation if the rectal temperature exceeds 101.5°F. If a horse’s rectal temperature exceeds 102.0°F, the animal must be tested for EHV-1. A positive result would initiate isolation of the affected horse and another 21 day quarantine of exposed horses for release. Quarantine release without testing will be available 21 days after the last febrile horse positive for EHV-1 was removed, excepting that no horses within the barn develop neurologic clinical signs consistent with EHM and/or test positive for EHV-1. **The earliest release date for these barns would be as follows:**

**Receiving Barn: 01-23-17**

**Barn 4: 01-27-17**

**Barn 30: 01-31-17**

**Barn 47: 01-31-17**

**Barn 45: 02-03-17**

### **“High Risk” Barns (#14 and #36)**

These barns will continue to be monitored by rectal temperatures twice daily and the veterinarian of record should be contacted for animal evaluation if the rectal temperature exceeds 101.5°F. If a horse’s rectal temperature exceeds 102.0°F, the animal must be tested for EHV-1. A positive

result would trigger isolation of the affected horse and another 21 day quarantine of exposed horses for release. Quarantine release without testing will be available 21 days after the last horse positive for EHV-1 was removed, excepting that no horses within the barn develop neurologic clinical signs consistent with EHM and/or test positive for EHV-1. **The earliest release date for these barns would be as follows:**

**Barn 14: 02-06-17**

**Barn 36: 02-06-17**

### **Isolation Barns**

All positive horses will be isolated with enhanced biosecurity and monitoring by recording rectal temperatures twice daily. Isolated horses will be tested on a 7 day schedule. After testing, positive horses will remain in isolation. Negative horses will be removed and placed in a separate isolation for retesting in 7 days. Horses will be eligible for quarantine release with 2 consecutive negative tests, not less than 72 hours apart, and a minimum of 14 days of quarantine following its last positive test or exposure to a positive horse. Quarantine release testing will be scheduled by track and state animal health officials. **Testing for quarantine release may begin on 01-23-17.**

### **Exposed horses traced out from the Receiving Barn**

Horses that moved through the Receiving Barn where a known EHV-1 positive resided were traced out to their current location and isolated. These horses have been monitored twice daily by recording rectal temperatures. Any horse that develops a fever exceeding 101.5°F will be examined by the attending veterinarian for neurologic signs consistent with EHM which would initiate testing for EHV-1. Quarantine release without testing will be available 21 days after removal of the last febrile horse testing positive for EHV-1, excepting that no horses within the barn develop neurologic clinical signs consistent with EHM or test positive for EHV-1. Trainer/owners have the option to test once at 14 days to enter back into the racing population. **The earliest release date for traced out horses without testing will be 01-23-2017.**