

Equine Influenza (EI) Controls Update Summary Information for Racecourses

EI Protocol **CHANGES** from 1st MAY 2019

As you know, when racing resumed after the equine flu outbreak in February, the BHA put in place a temporary rule, requiring all racehorses to have been vaccinated within the previous six months. We also required health declarations for all horses on arrival at the racecourse.

As action taken both during and after the suspension of racing has so far controlled any further spread of equine flu in the racehorse population, we have reviewed both the temporary and long-term requirements, in consultation with the Veterinary Committee and the NTF.

Please note the following:

1. While we have continued the temporary changes, we now amended the vaccination requirements. From **1 May**, we will require that racehorses are **vaccinated for equine flu within NINE months of racing and/or entry to racecourse stables**. This temporary change will apply from 1 May until 31 December 2019 inclusive. The nine-month requirement consists of eight months, plus a grace period of one month, which will apply in 2019 only.
2. Subject to full consultation with relevant stakeholders, the BHA will also seek to make a change to the established rule which, if agreed, would take effect from 1 January 2020.
3. The current requirement to submit a health declaration form prior to racing will **cease from 1 May 2019**. This change applies ONLY to horses trained in Great Britain by licensed trainers.
4. The **health declaration will still be required for horses trained outside Britain** and e.g. for Hunter Chasers from unlicensed yards, ARO, PRA.

The view of the Veterinary Committee, based on current science, which is that, in order to provide optimum herd immunity, horses should ideally be vaccinated every six months. However, this should be regarded in the context that we presently have a disease-free herd.

Having assessed all the relevant information, the BHA Executive has applied a level of pragmatism in arriving at the conclusions outlined and are comfortable that the 8/9-month vaccination period is sufficient to provide acceptable protection against the disease.

Summary of requirements from 1 May 2019:

1. Raceday Runners:
 - 1.1. **GB Runners from Licenced Yards**
 - No longer required to submit information online – on the day spot checks by EWIO/VO teams;
 - Compliant EI vaccines within **NINE** calendar months of race date/entrance into the stable yard.
 - Equine Influenza Health Declaration Form (EIDF) no longer required.
 - 1.2. **Non-GB and runners from Non-Licenced Yards (Hunter Chasers, ARO and PRA)**
 - Must submit documentation online prior to arrival - The form can be viewed [here](#)

- Require compliant EI vaccines within **NINE** calendar months of race date/entry to stables and,
- EI health declaration form and,
- PCR Form confirming negative result for EI from nasopharyngeal swab taken during the 72 hours prior to the horse's entry into the racecourse.
- Hunter Chasers from non-licensed yards and ARO runners must continue to be segregated in the stable yard.

2. Travellers and Gallopers from Licensed Yards

- As per 1.1
- On non-raceday, please could COTCs ensure documentation correct (EI vaccs).

3. All other equines on-course – check with Racecourse Operations

STABLES HYGIENE – Level 2 Clean Requirements

Level 2 cleans required for:

- Non-GB runners
- Horses from non-licensed yards (i.e. Hunter Chasers, Equine Events)
- Travel companions
- Gallopers (inc. Barrier Trials)
- ARO horses
- PRA ponies

Level 1 cleans of stables are sufficient for compliant GB runners.

EQUINE EVENTS

All equine events will be dealt with on a case by case basis, please continue to make applications to Racecourse Operations: racecourseops@britishhorseracing.com