

## Top 10 Tips For Biosecurity

With infectious disease, clinical signs are not always apparent, especially in the sub-clinical phase prior to the development of clinical disease, or if the affected animal has asymptomatic carriage. Both these statuses play significant roles in onward transmission due to pathogen shedding.

Therefore, an optimal strategy involves having good biosecurity protocols continually in place to minimise both the welfare, and economic costs, that an outbreak has the potential to cause. This can prevent an isolated case from developing into a cluster of cases or in extreme circumstances, extending to an epidemic.

Biosecurity measures are often simple and easy to implement and these are the following we advise:

1. Clear protocol for **new arrivals** to the yard. For example;
  - i. Screening for *Streptococcus equi*
  - ii. Quarantine of 3 weeks for new arrivals
2. **Isolation/Quarantine** facilities separate to the main yard facilities, with no shared air space
3. Clear **vaccination** policy
  - i. Encourage owners that this should not be an alternative to good biosecurity but helps to reduce severity of disease and further transmission
4. For horses **travelling** to shows and events that have been in-contact with other horses, encourage heightened awareness of infectious disease risk and consider placing these animals in isolation on return from competition
5. **Designated equipment** for each horse. For example;
  - i. Individual water buckets.
  - ii. If equipment is shared, disinfection between contacts
  - iii. Regular cleaning of all equipment, regardless of sharing
6. **Turnout** in small groups, with double-spaced fences preventing direct contact
7. Good **hygiene** practices, including hand washing prior to and after attending a horse
8. Ensure storage containers for **feed** are secure, and feed areas are clean to minimise vermin populations. If horses are fed in field, try to place hay racks and feed buckets on firm ground to prevent poaching and leading to ideal conditions for some microorganisms
9. Encourage horse owners to have good knowledge of common infectious diseases allowing for the preliminary **recognition** of a clinical problem
10. Encourage horse owners to seek **veterinary advice** as soon as possible on recognition of a clinical problem.