Protect Your Horse from Infectious Diseases

**At Home in Your Barn**

1. **Have a Plan**
   - Create a biosecurity plan that is practical for your barn

2. **Know Your Horse**
   - Monitor the health & nutritional status of your horse
   - Maintain accurate, detailed health records
   - Develop a vaccination & parasite management plan with your veterinarian

3. **Clean Hands**
   - Make it quick & easy so people will do it
   - Use liquid soap or alcohol based hand sanitizers (min. 61% alcohol)
   - Sing “Happy Birthday” twice when using soap & water
   - Provide single-use towels for drying hands
   - Install multiple alcohol based hand sanitizers in large barns

4. **Clean Feet**
   - Wear designated boots/shoes in the barn
   - Clean footwear on a regular basis

5. **First Clean & then Disinfect**
   - Discuss your plan & the appropriate disinfectant with your veterinarian
   - Create a smooth, waterproof surface that can be easily disinfected: clean walls thoroughly, patch knots with wood filler & seal walls with a marine varnish or polyurethane
   - Brush off loose dirt/manure & wash with laundry detergent before disinfecting
   - Make sure barn surfaces are clean so that disinfectants will work

6. **Isolate New Horses**
   - Isolate* your new horse for 2 weeks (recommended)
   - Obtain health, vaccination, parasite control & travel records
   - Monitor health of new horse

**Visitors and Visiting**

7. **Be Vigilant on the Road**
   - If possible, use your own trailer
   - Try not to ship with horses from other farms
   - Make sure the trailer has been cleaned & disinfected
   - When you get home, shower & put on clean clothes/shoes before going near other horses
   - If possible, isolate* the horse for at least 2 weeks (especially no nose to nose contact)
   - Turn out horses in small, “like” groups (i.e. mares/foals in one area, travelling horses in another)

8. **Take Precautions Away from Home**
   - Have a pair of shoes/boots just for visiting
   - Wear coveralls or plan to change if you are around horses on another farm
   - Your Horse
     - Ask if venue has a vaccination and biosecurity plan
     - Try not to let your horse touch other horses (nose-to-nose contact is the worst)
     - Don’t share equipment like water/food buckets, brushes, etc. (careful – keep hose tip above, not touching your bucket)
     - Wash your hands, especially after touching other people’s horses
     - Try not to let strangers touch your horse
     - Brush off dirt/manure, then disinfect tack, boots and equipment before leaving (sprays or wipes work well)

9. **Rules for Visitors**
   - Post a sign to indicate that visitors should check in
   - Keep a visitor’s log; if a disease outbreak occurs, it could help to trace the problem
   - Remember: Disease-producing agents or microorganisms can be transferred from one facility to another through the movement of people or equipment

10. **Understand Isolation***
    - Have an isolation plan for new, sick and travelling horses
    - Use separate barn Ideally or end of aisle, leaving an empty stall in between horses
    - Use separate cleaning equipment, grooming tools, feed or water buckets in isolation area (tip: label with red tape)
    - Work with the isolated horse last each day & wash your hands before & after

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YOU MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO DO EVERYTHING BUT DO SOMETHING – IT IS WORTH IT – A LITTLE COULD GO A LONG WAY. SICK HORSES COST MONEY AND CAUSE STRESS TO YOU AND YOUR HORSE.

Find Out More!

www.EquineGuelph.ca

Beat the Bugs with Biosecurity

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