

# PROTECTING YOUR HORSE FROM EQUINE INFECTIOUS ANEMIA (EIA)

Thinking of bringing a new horse into your herd or taking your horse to an event? **Make sure you know what to do to keep your horses protected from equine infectious anemia (EIA).** This is a disease of serious consequence, and a positive case must be reported to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA). EIA does not affect humans.



**THERE IS NO VACCINE OR TREATMENT FOR EIA. THE BEST WAY TO PROTECT YOUR HORSE IS THROUGH REGULAR TESTING AND BIOSECURITY.**



## WHAT IS EIA?

EIA is a disease caused by a virus that affects horses, donkeys, and mules. Since 2021, there have been more than 190 EIA cases reported across western Canada (in BC, AB, SK, MB, YK). EIA has been detected in sick horses, as well as seemingly healthy horses being tested for sales, export or events.



## HOW DOES THIS HAPPEN?

The virus that causes EIA is transmitted by:

- Contaminated/ reused hypodermic needles, syringes, dental, or surgical instruments or any other equipment contaminated by blood
- Bites from biting flies (horseflies, stable flies, and deerflies)



## WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE?

Horses with EIA can show the following signs:

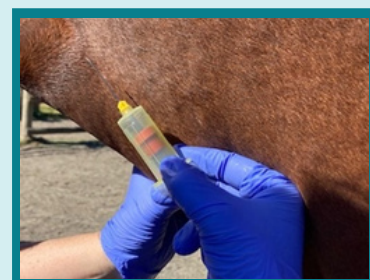
- Off feed
- Depression
- Weakness
- Fever
- Pale gums
- Swelling of the legs
- Weight loss

**ALTHOUGH SOME HORSES INFECTED WITH THE EIA VIRUS MAY SHOW FEW SIGNS OF ILLNESS, THEY ARE LIFELONG CARRIERS OF THE VIRUS AND CAN INFECT OTHER HORSES**

# PROTECTING YOUR HORSE FROM EQUINE INFECTIOUS ANEMIA (EIA)

## WHAT CAN I DO?

- Test horses before purchasing or moving onto your premises to confirm negative status. **Testing is available to horse owners on a fee-for-service basis (ELISA or AGID 'Coggins' test).** Veterinarians can collect and submit blood samples to laboratories for testing
- If you are considering taking your horse to events such as rodeos, racing meets, shows or camps, ask the event organizers about their EIA testing policy to help you evaluate risk
- Do not share and reuse needles, syringes or IV tubing between horses – use sterile/ disposable supplies
- Clean and disinfect any surgical, dental, or tattoo equipment
- Practice good biosecurity.
- Talk to your veterinarian if your horse is sick, or if you think your horse may be infected with EIA



THE CONSEQUENCES OF EIA ARE SEVERE. AS WELL AS CAUSING ILLNESS, EIA CAN LEAD TO REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS FOR EUTHANASIA OF INFECTED HORSES.

## RESOURCES

### CFIA EIA Information page:

<https://inspection.canada.ca/animal-health/terrestrial-animals/diseases/reportable/eia/eng/1329698749489/1329703176989>

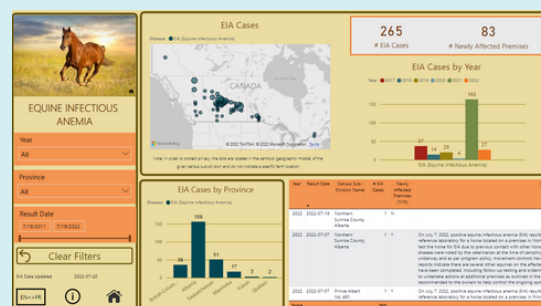
**CAHSS Disease Alerts page (for Canada wide information on equine cases) (for Canada specific information about equine disease cases):** <https://www.cahss.ca/cahss-tools/disease-alerts>

**EDCC Disease Alerts page (for North America wide information about equine disease cases):** (for North America wide information on equine cases): <https://equinediseasecc.org/alerts>

### EDCC factsheet on EIA

[https://aaep.org/sites/default/files/Documents/Outside%20Linked%20Documents/DiseaseFactsheet\\_EIA%20Cobranded.pdf](https://aaep.org/sites/default/files/Documents/Outside%20Linked%20Documents/DiseaseFactsheet_EIA%20Cobranded.pdf)

## CAHSS EQUINE DISEASE DASHBOARD



SCAN QR CODE TO USE DASHBOARD

PREVENTING EQUINE INFECTIOUS ANEMIA FROM ENTERING IS THE BEST FORM OF PROTECTION