



Northern Victorian Showjumping Club Inc.

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This Biosecurity Plan outlines a set of preventative control measures and actions aimed at reducing the risk and spread of an infectious diseases outbreak affecting people and horses on and off the venue.

Every individual has a responsibility to abide by the biosecurity measures and to follow the directions of the Organising Committee (OC) or risk expulsion from the event.

This plan includes: 1. Emergency contact information 2. Biosecurity policy 3. Details of biosecurity kit and equipment required to be available at event 4. Biosecurity contingency plan 5. Communication plan 6. Biosecurity information for event organisers Biosecurity

EVENT BIOSECURITY PLAN AND BIOSECURITY POLICY

All people who bring horses or livestock onto the grounds are expected to be aware of their biosecurity obligation that they must take all reasonable steps to ensure their activities do not spread a pest, disease or contaminant.

All horses or livestock entering grounds must be from a property actively practising good biosecurity principles within their management.

Competitors will be advised before and during the event that:

- They have a biosecurity obligation to take all reasonable steps to ensure their activities do not spread a pest, disease or contaminant.
- Horse Health Declarations (HHD) are a mandatory requirement for all events.
- The property identification code (PIC) of the horse's origin and returning property must be included on the HHD.
- Acceptance into the event will be refused if the required HHD is not presented at point of entry or designated registration point.
- No horses with signs of illness are to be brought onto the grounds.
- No communal horse water troughs will be available at the event. Equipment, including food and water containers is not to be shared between horses.
- Competitors are responsible for cleaning up manure from yards and placing it in designated areas.
- Competitors are required to advise the event organisers immediately if a horse is sick, to stop all non-essential contact with the sick horse and not allow children to have close contact with the sick horse.
- Everyone handling horses should wash or sanitise hands between contacting different horses.

Prior to the event, the Biosecurity Manager and Organising Committee will identify and mark off an agreed isolation area with hazard tape.

The Biosecurity Manager, in consultation with the Organising Committee, is in charge should a biosecurity risk arise.



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While the Biosecurity Manager does not possess the legal powers necessary to quarantine or restrict movements of people, they will arrange to have the details of any person and/or animal leaving the grounds if they have been directed not to.

BIOSECURITY EQUIPMENT

Equipment required at event: PA system (Organising committee) - Hand sanitiser for stations around yard areas and at marshalling areas (Organising Committee) - First aid kit (Organising committee) Biosecurity field kit comprising: disposable gloves o overalls o boots/covers o safety goggles o paper hand towels o heavy duty garbage bags o tape

Decontamination equipment o buckets o spray bottles o scrubbing brush o foot bath – kitty litter tray o detergents and disinfectant

BIOSECURITY INCIDENT CONTINGENCY PLAN

In the event that a sick horse is confirmed at the event, the following plan is to be followed: Sick horse - Organising Committee and Biosecurity Manager are to be advised of a sick horse immediately. - Biosecurity Manager will contact the event vet. - Horse is to be taken to isolation area, via the most direct route avoiding any unnecessary contact with other people or horses until review by the vet. Vet attendance - If the event vet declines or is unable to attend, the owner will be required to organise for their own treating vet, and if able to travel, leave the venue. - If the horse is unable to travel, its welfare needs to be considered with all reasonably practicable treatment options provided. - If the horse is deemed to be non-infectious it may be returned to regular stable and will be managed by owner/ exhibitor and attending vet (at owners' expense). - OR - - If the horse is diagnosed as being a possible biosecurity threat it is to remain in isolation stable with a minimum five-metre perimeter to other horses or passing people. - Biosecurity Manager will contact Emergency Disease watch hotline 1800 675888. - All people within the isolation zone i.e., vet, officials, owner, are to don PPE gear when tending to horse. - Disinfection of shoes via footbaths and strict hand hygiene to be followed. Biosecurity issue Identified - Biosecurity Manager in conjunction with attending vet will contact Biosecurity Victoria 13 25 23. - Biosecurity Manager will ask OC to close exit points and broadcast to all present at the venue to remain on site until further information and exit points are closed. - Event organiser will take advice about whether to continue with the event, after discussion with Biosecurity Victoria, and advise participants of this decision. - Horse Health Declarations for all horses on site made available to Biosecurity Victoria. - Access to isolation area will be patrolled by Biosecurity Manager and limited to essential personnel. - All horse movement to cease unless authorised by Biosecurity Victoria. Lockdown - Biosecurity Victoria will advise if a total lockdown of the venue is required and the event organising committee will advise participants of this decision. - The Biosecurity Manager will regularly check entry/exit points to ensure anyone leaving the venue is given an exit notice and their vehicle registration is noted. - The Biosecurity Manager will make arrangements for waste removal if required. - The event organiser will arrange for fodder to be available for purchase by participants. - Further shavings will be arranged by the Biosecurity Manager in conjunction with the venue and be available for purchase by participants. - Biosecurity Victoria will advise the Biosecurity Manager and participants of any further protocols required. - The Biosecurity Manager in conjunction with the organising committee will arrange removal and disposal of deceased animals if required.



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BIOSECURITY CONTINGENCY PLAN FOR SUSPECT BIOSECURITY RISK SICK HORSE Contact list

PPE gear

Decontamination gear

Who has responsibility

Who is the person in charge

Who will make the decision to isolate and when

What other actions need to be considered

VET CONFIRMS SICK HORSE IS NOT A BIOSECURITY ISSUE VET SUSPECTS SICK HORSE MAY BE A BIOSECURITY ISSUE

Who is the person in charge? Is the person in charge able to work with the vet & the person responsible for horse? Is there a 'chain of command'? Does Biosecurity Victoria need to be contacted - who is going to do this? What actions can be taken to control movement of people on and off the venue? Can you obtain detailed records of people who may start to leave the event? (e.g., destination PIC, vehicle registration, mobile phone numbers)

CONFIRMED BIOSECURITY ISSUE

What are control options? Do we have records & venue map available to produce to Biosecurity Victoria?

EVENT CEASES

Who advises the event has ceased? Biosecurity Victoria will manage emergency disease incidents in conjunction with event organisers & horse owner. If there are movement restrictions, event organisers will need to arrange and manage the daily husbandry/welfare needs of the horses and people on the grounds

EVENT CONTINUES

Event Organisers will need to manage the sick horse and in contact animals in conjunction with the horse owner/s ISOLATE Where? How? Who? Why? How many?

COMMUNICATION PLAN

Notification of all affected parties is a critical component for an effective infectious disease control plan. Development of a clear, concise and accurate message about a situation, the measures being taken and the procedures for event participants to follow is critical to prevent the spread of disease and panic among event participants and the general horse-owning public. This plan outlines the communication protocols and the range of biosecurity messages for competitors before the event, for all attendees during the event, including if there is a biosecurity incident.

BEFORE THE EVENT



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Key messages Audience Communication tools Communication channels Person responsible
Biosecurity is everybody's business. All horse owners and riders have a biosecurity obligation to take all reasonable steps to ensure their activities do not spread a pest, disease or contaminant. Competitors expected to ensure good biosecurity practices at home, and at the event and act at the direction of the organising committee and Biosecurity Manager.

DURING THE EVENT

Key messages Audience Communication tools Communication channels Person responsible
OC has measures in place to mitigate risk of infection, disease and pests. In the unlikely event of a biosecurity incident, biosecurity plan will be implemented. You will be notified about the incident and expected to follow the directions given by the organising committee. Everyone will be expected to remain at the venue until cleared to leave by the organising committee. In the event of horse movement restrictions participants are responsible for the care, maintenance and cost of their horses and themselves, including feeding, bedding, vets and personal needs.
Competitors Everyone at venue Fact sheet A3 poster Handed to all competitors on arrival/collection of rider packs. Posted on gate and other visible points at venue BM to provide signage to OC Contact person is BM Information and tips for good biosecurity practice Everyone at venue Signage as per examples in this plan Posted throughout venue OC/BM

DURING THE EVENT IF THERE IS A BIOSECURITY THREAT/INCIDENT

In the unlikely event of a biosecurity incident, the Biosecurity Manager will:

1. Advise the organising committee of the situation.
2. Meet with the directly affected parties to advise the actions to be taken, including isolating the horse/s, contacting vet and authorities.
3. Contact the emergency disease hotline.
4. Identify all parties who may have had contact with the sick horse.
5. Act as the main point of contact between the authorities and the organising committee.
6. Prepare media/public statements as required.

The organising committee will:

1. Arrange for event staff to be stationed at venue exit points.
2. Provide staff at exits with equipment to take car/truck registration details of anyone who leaves the site, and information sheets to hand to people in exiting vehicles.
3. Advise all attendees at the event via public address system that a biosecurity matter is being investigated, the horse/s have been isolated, and authorities have been called.
4. Ask all people to stay well clear of the isolation area and request everyone to remain on site until further notice.
5. Advise everyone updates will be provided as soon as information comes to hand.
6. Invite attendees to come to information booth if they have any questions.
7. Brief key messengers.
8. Arrange for notices to be produced and placed on vehicles on the grounds if required.

Key messages Audience Communication tools Communication channels Spokesperson/
Person responsible OC is managing a potential biosecurity matter. We have a plan and will be enacting it for the safety of every person and horse on site. Horse/s have been isolated, authorities called. Ask everyone to stay well away from isolation area. Please do not leave the venue without discussion with OC. We will keep you updated. Questions to the information booth. Monitor your horse's health - what to look for. All attendees at event Verbal Written PA system Key messengers Notice given to all people leaving venue and placed on all vehicles at venue.



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Event director/ OC BM has copies of notice. OC to arrange distribution Status update of situation – particularly advising people when they can leave venue All attendees Verbal Written PA system Key messengers Notes on vehicles OC If there is a confirmed biosecurity threat All attendees general public Written statement Posts Media Social media

AFTER THE EVENT

Key messages Audience Communication tools Communication channels Spokesperson/ Person responsible Outcome of bio security incident Attendees Equestrian community General community Statement

BIOSECURITY INFORMATION FOR EVENT ORGANISERS

Workplace health and safety requirements

Horse Industry associations that conduct a business or undertaking have duties under work health and safety legislation to ensure the health and safety of themselves, their workers and other persons so far as is reasonably practicable. Risks to health and safety must be eliminated so far as is reasonably practicable.

If this is not reasonably practicable, the risks must be minimised so far as is reasonably practicable. A horse event may be a workplace for some persons but not others. Events must:

- provide and maintain a work environment without risks to health and safety
- provide and maintain safe plant and structures
- provide and maintain safe systems of work
- ensure the safe use, handling, and storage of plant, structures and substances
- provide adequate facilities (including hand hygiene and first aid facilities) for the welfare at work of workers including ensuring access to those facilities
- provide any information, training, instruction or supervision that is necessary to protect all persons from risks to their health and safety

The Safework Australia – Essential Guide to Work Health and Safety for Volunteers is available at: <https://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/book/essential-guide-work-health-and-safety-volunteers>

Biosecurity management

Biosecurity risks can be reduced by taking steps to:

- a. prevent introduction of disease onto grounds
- b. prevent the spread of disease on the grounds
- c. minimise the effect and spread of a disease incident within the ground

The Property Identification Code (PIC) of horse's origin and property it is returning to must be on the Horse Health Declaration. It is a legal requirement that all horse owners must apply to register their property

Records should be kept of any volunteer/staff training activities the club or organisation has undertaken as it relates to activities/roles individuals are expected to perform during events or in the advent of a biosecurity outbreak.

Reviews and updates any procedures or of your Biosecurity Plan should also be recorded and amendments noted on all such documents as soon as the reviews are completed.



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It is prudent to lodge these documents on your club or organisation website for all to see, as well as during specific notice to them in newsletters, social media links or the like.

Prevention of spread of disease on the grounds Venue

Venue planning should include:

- o placement of hand washing facilities and sanitiser at strategic, prescribed areas e.g., near the toilet shower block, horse wash area, waste disposal area, isolation area, etc.
- o an isolation area for sick horses
- o restricted entry/exit points for spectators and competitors
- o restricted access to isolation areas
- o location of food preparation and dining areas away from animal contact areas
- o identification of trees on-site that are attractive to flying foxes and restriction of access to these areas while the trees are flowering/fruitletting and attracting flying foxes
- o covering feed and water troughs and not placing these under trees
- o installing surfaces, equipment, fittings and materials that can be readily cleaned and disinfected
- o good general ventilation
- o design of traffic management systems and vehicle parking and delivery points for spectators, competitors, vendors, tradespersons, and emergency vehicles
- o design of horse movement corridors within the facility
- o design of waste management points and wastewater management
- o pest and vector control
- o placement of biosecurity signage.

People

- o Signage should inform visitors and competitors of the importance of biosecurity at the event.
- o Specific biosecurity information should be included on event entries for all entrants to see.
- o People should be encouraged to minimise (as much as practicable) contact with horses; in particular other people's horses.
- o Horse carers should be encouraged to restrict public access to their horses as much as practicable.
- o Horse handlers should be urged to regularly use hand sanitiser.
- o The use of a detergent/disinfectant when cleaning equipment is recommended.
- o Hand hygiene signage should be visible at all times.
- o All officials should wash hands or apply hand sanitiser between contacting different horses or between classes where practicable and ensure any organic matter present is cleaned off hands or equipment prior to sanitisation.
- o Where possible people should not camp in close proximity to where the horses are stabled, nor should horses be in close proximity to where people are cooking and eating.
- o Vehicles
- o Every effort should be made to ensure the cleanliness of vehicles/floats entering the venue.
- o All local regulations regarding the transport of plant material, seeds, weed control, etc must be adhered to.

Horses

- o No communal water troughs should be supplied.
- o Contact with other horses and animals) on the grounds should be minimised (as much as practicable).
- o Encourage people not to share their horse's water, feed containers or equipment. If this must happen, they should clean and disinfect gear between horse use
- o Feed and water should be kept under cover and away from trees to prevent contamination from birds/flying foxes.
- o Manure
- o Stables/yards should be kept clean of manure and feed scraps on a regular basis during an event, clinic or training days. This should be drawn to the attention of all concerned.
- o Where possible, efforts are to be made to pick up manure from communal walkways and exercise areas as soon as possible.
- o Manure is to be disposed of in designated 'manure' sites around the grounds.

Dogs



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o Dogs are not a preferred option at events. o If they are attending, dogs must be kept on a lead at all times and should be permitted in the camping areas only. o It is the owner's responsibility to pick up and dispose of dog droppings. Fodder (for interstate competitors) o Any feed brought into the venue from Interstate must comply with Department requirements

Minimising the effect and spread of a disease incident within the grounds

Veterinarian

o A designated veterinarian/isolation yard should be supplied. o A veterinarian should be on call. o A disposal area to bury or burn deceased horses should be organised prior to the event. This may be offsite. If this is the case a plan will need to be developed as to how the carcass will be transported to the burial site. (Ensure that you advise the horse disposal contractors of any potential human health risks if a horse is suspected, or confirmed to be infected, with a zoonotic disease).

Site map

A site map should include: o entry and exit point/s o isolation area o stabling o public access o public parking o participants' parking o designated exercise/warm up areas o event activities o manure disposal area o other waste areas (e.g., feed, soiled bedding, clinical waste including sharps) o location of cleaning agents, disinfectant o location of hand washing basins and hand sanitisers o location of first aid kits o location of PPE Kit o water sources o a traffic flow/movement of people information (spectators, competitors and officials), vehicles, animals and emergency vehicles for safe exiting of the venue.