

Biosecurity Queensland alert

Hendra virus – information for industry

30 May 2012

Hendra virus communique no.3-30 May 2012

Two new Hendra virus cases confirmed

Biosecurity Queensland is managing two new Hendra virus cases - one near Rockhampton and the other near Ingham. This follows positive test results being received late last night.

Rockhampton case

A horse died on Saturday, 26 May 2012 on a property near Rockhampton with test results confirming the horse was infected with Hendra virus. The horse has been buried on the property. There are eight other horses on the property that are being monitored.

The case horse was recorded as being lethargic on Thursday 24 May. On Saturday 26 May the horse was showing the following clinical signs:

- respiratory rate - 60
- temperature - 40.5°C
- bilateral frothy nasal discharge
- muffled heart sounds
- bilateral epistaxis at death

A private veterinarian visited the horse on Saturday and collected samples for testing.

Test results:

PCR nasal swab - positive

PCR blood - positive

Ingham case

A horse died on a property near Ingham on Monday, 28 May 2012, with results confirming it was infected with Hendra virus. The horse has been buried on the property.

Five horses remain on this property and are being monitored.

The case horse was recorded as being dull on Friday 25 May. On Sunday 27 May the horse was showing the following clinical signs:

- temperature - 40°C
- ataxia
- circling
- hanging head
- dull demeanour

A private veterinarian visited the horse on Sunday 27 May and collected samples for testing.

Test results:

PCR nasal swab - positive

PCR rectal swab - positive

Movement restrictions

Biosecurity Queensland has quarantined both properties.

Tracing will be a priority to determine what contact the deceased horses may have had with other animals.

Movement restrictions apply to quarantined properties only.

More information

This is a timely reminder for veterinarians to ensure they use appropriate personal protective equipment when they attend sick horses.

Veterinarians are reminded that the current [guidelines for veterinarians handling potential Hendra virus infection in horses \(V4.2\)](#) can be found on the Biosecurity Queensland website.

The [Hendra virus information pack for horse owners](#) outlines how to reduce the risk of horses becoming infected with Hendra virus.

Notify suspected Hendra virus cases by contacting Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23 (business hours) or the Emergency Animal Disease Watch Hotline on 1800 675 888 (24 hour hotline).

Contact your GP, local Queensland Health Emergency Department or local Public Health Unit if you have concerns about possible exposure of people to a horse with Hendra virus infection.

For general enquiries about the infection of Hendra virus in humans, call the Queensland Health Hotline on 13HEALTH (13 43 25 84) or visit the [Queensland Health website](#)

For information about managing Hendra virus risks at workplaces, visit the [Workplace Health and Safety Queensland website](#) or call 1300 369 915.

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