

INFORMATION ABOUT THE HENDRA VIRUS VACCINE



Equivac® HeV

Today, your horse received its first dose of Equivac® HeV vaccine. To ensure adequate protection against Hendra virus infection a second dose is required in three weeks with further booster doses being required to maintain your horse's protective levels.

Make sure to provide your email address to your vet so that in two weeks you will receive a reminder for when the second dose is due.

After your horse receives its second dose you will be given a certificate that serves as proof of vaccination.

What is Equivac® HeV?

There are many different types of vaccines.

Equivac® HeV is called a 'subunit' vaccine. This means it contains only a small part of the Hendra virus, a protein from the virus surface. As there is no complete Hendra virus in the vaccine it cannot cause viral disease in your horse, you, or any other person or animal.

This vaccine activates your horse's immune system to produce antibodies that protect against infection with the Hendra virus.

What can I expect after my horse is vaccinated?

Protective antibodies against Hendra virus develop in vaccinated horses, approximately three weeks after the second vaccination.

All medicines, including vaccines, may have side effects including reactions such as pain, a rise in temperature or signs of serious allergy, (e.g. skin lumps, difficulty breathing, collapse), but these were NOT seen when Equivac® HeV was tested.

In clinical tests the only side effects seen when Equivac® HeV was administered were mild transient swellings in the area of the neck where the vaccine was injected. This swelling was more common after the second injection and completely disappeared without the need for any treatment, within a week of the injection.

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No vaccine is completely effective in 100% of horses.

Even if your horse has completed the vaccine schedule, it is vital that any signs of Hendra virus infection should be properly managed and investigated.

Signs of Hendra virus disease may include:

- fever
- nasal discharge
- clumsiness or difficulty walking (ataxia)
- muscle twitching
- increased breathing rate
- lack of appetite
- head tilt
- difficulty breathing.

Remember to isolate sick horses from other horses, people and all other animals – including household pets – and call your veterinarian.

Need to know more?

If you have any concerns about possible reactions to Equivac® HeV please contact your veterinarian to seek further advice.

For further information about Equivac® HeV or to report any suspected adverse reaction please contact Pfizer Animal Health Technical Services Toll Free on 1800 814 883.