Biosecurity alert Hendra virus – in South East Queensland 3 July 2011

Current situation

Biosecurity Queensland is managing two Hendra virus incidents in South East Queensland.

Three properties have been quarantined in the Beaudesert shire following confirmation of positive Hendra virus test results from a horse on a property in Kerry, near Beaudesert on 28 June 2011.

One property is currently under quarantine at Mt Alford, in the Boonah area following confirmation of positive Hendra virus test results from a horse on 1 July 2011.

Hendra virus at Mt Alford, Boonah

Yesterday afternoon Biosecurity Queensland collected samples from eight horses on the quarantined property at Mt Alford.

The results are expected by tomorrow afternoon.

One of these horses has been unwell today and has been assessed by a Biosecurity Queensland veterinarian. This and the remaining seven horses are all being monitored closely by Biosecurity Queensland staff in conjunction with the horse owners.

At this stage, tracing investigations have not identified any further affected properties.

Hendra virus in Beaudesert

Biosecurity Queensland veterinarians have taken samples from three horses on the third quarantined property in relation to the Beaudesert incident.

The results are expected by tomorrow afternoon.

All horses from the three quarantined properties in the Beaudesert area are being monitored closely by Biosecurity Queensland staff in conjunction with the horse owners. All horses appear clinically normal.

Information about Hendra virus

There are **no lockdown restrictions** for the Queensland horse industry.

The horse industry is not subject to movement restrictions for Hendra virus, except for the four properties under quarantine - three in the Beaudesert area and one in the Boonah area.

Community engagement

Community engagement officers are continuing to attend events and shows in the Beaudesert and Boonah areas over the weekend.

Biosecurity Queensland in conjunction with the Queensland Horse Council, Queensland Health and Workplace Health and Safety will also be holding a Hendra virus seminar at Beaudesert next Tuesday (see attached flyer).

This is a great opportunity for the community, including horse owners and businesses to find out the facts about Hendra virus and have their questions answered.

I encourage you to promote this event through your networks.

More information

Notify suspected Hendra virus cases by contacting Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23 (during business hours) or the Emergency Animal Disease Watch Hotline on 1800 675 888 (24-hour hotline). More information is available at www.biosecurity.qld.gov.au

For human related enquiries, contact the Queensland Health Hotline on 13HEALTH (13 43 25 84).

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