

Biosecurity alert

# Hendra virus – information for industry

15 July 2011

## Current Situation

### Hendra virus in North Queensland

Biosecurity Queensland officers continue to monitor 36 horses on the quarantined property at Kuranda near Cairns, where Hendra virus was confirmed on Tuesday 12 July.

Officers will continue to assess and sample the horses on the property and trace the movements of horses to determine if contact has been made with the infected horse or material.

There is no connection between the horses or properties at Kuranda to the incidents at Beaudesert, Boonah, Park Ridge or in New South Wales.

### Hendra virus in South East Queensland

The second round of testing from the horses located on quarantined properties in Beaudesert has been completed.

The horses located on the quarantined properties at Mt Alford and Park Ridge will undergo a second round of testing over the next two weeks.

The total number of properties quarantined as a result of Hendra virus in Queensland is nine. There have been six confirmed horse deaths.

There are 76 horses are being monitored on a daily basis. All horses appear clinically normal.

### Taskforce

The Hendra virus Taskforce, comprising of biosecurity and health experts from Queensland, New South Wales and CSIRO, had their first meeting on Wednesday 13 July. The next

Taskforce meeting is scheduled to be held within the next two weeks.

The purpose of the taskforce is to analyse the situation in both states to better understand the incidents, identify areas for further collaboration and undertaking longer-term planning for managing the disease and its impacts.

### Community Engagement

Community engagement officers will be in a number of locations in north Queensland and south east Queensland over the weekend. Officers will be providing information and answering any questions residents, horse owners and businesses may have on the situation.

To find out where Biosecurity Queensland officers will be next, visit the [community engagement calendar](#) on the Biosecurity Queensland website for dates and locations.

### Movement of horses

As Hendra virus is not a highly infectious virus, there are no lockdown restrictions for the Queensland horse industry. The only properties that have movement restrictions for Hendra virus are the nine properties under quarantine.

It is imperative that horse owners do not take unwell horses to horse events and practise good biosecurity before, during and after the event.

Horse owners around the state should be vigilant throughout the year for signs consistent with Hendra virus.

## **Best practice – reducing the risk on your horse property**

There are a number of measures horse owners can take to reduce the risk of horses becoming infected with Hendra virus.

Horse feed and water containers should be removed from under trees. If possible, place feed and water containers under a shelter.

Horses should be removed from paddocks where flowering/fruited trees are attracting flying foxes. Horses should be returned only after the trees have stopped flowering/fruited and the flying foxes have gone.

If it is not possible to remove horses from paddocks, try to temporarily remove your horses during times of peak flying fox activity (usually at dusk and during the night) or fence off access to trees that attract flying foxes.

Ensure that sick horses are isolated from other horses, people and animals until a veterinarian's opinion is obtained.

## **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](http://www.biosecurity.qld.gov.au)

If you have missed any information that has been previously distributed by Biosecurity Queensland, visit the [News and Updates](#) page on the website.

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

For workplace health and safety enquiries contact Workplace Health and Safety Queensland on 1300 369 915.

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