

Vaccinations – Prepare for the show season ahead

In general, we choose vaccinations to protect our horses because of the high health risk and cost to treat disease. While no vaccine is 100% protective, vaccinating your horse is the best protection to your horse and others on your farm against harmful diseases.

Core vaccines help protect horses against diseases that are not transmitted from horse to horse. They are an equal threat to horses that stay at home and to those that travel. Please note that core vaccine recommendations may vary based on your location in Canada, and there may be additional vaccinations recommended by your veterinarian.

Risk-Based vaccinations help protect horses against diseases that are transmitted from horse to horse and are a threat to horses that travel, as well as horses at home that are exposed to horses that travel. Please note that risk-based vaccination recommendations may vary based on the locations a horse is expected to travel to, and additional vaccinations may be recommended by your veterinarian.

At all Equestrian Canada (EC) competitions, it is strongly recommended that horses are up-to-date on both *Equine Influenza* vaccinations and *Equine Herpes Virus 1 & 4* vaccinations. It is important that you pre-plan your vaccination schedule with your herd veterinarian ahead of competition season, as there is logistical planning involved to ensure your vaccination schedule not only meets competition biosecurity requirements and EC rules, but also to ensure your horses protection is maximized before entering high-risk environments such as competitions and clinics. For example, horses should receive an Equine Influenza booster annually and within six months of competitions, but not within seven days of arriving at the competition. By consulting with your herd veterinarian, you can plan a vaccination schedule that works for you, your horse, and your pocket book. Research has also shown that vaccinating your horse for the equine herpes virus less than 35 days before a stressful event like a competition significantly increases the risk of developing clinical signs of Equine Herpes Myelitis. Make sure you book your vaccination appointment well in advance of your first planned outing!

For more information, visit

[www.equestrian.ca/industry/health/equine- vaccinations](http://www.equestrian.ca/industry/health/equine-vaccinations) or view the [2018 Recommended Equine Vaccines Across Canada PDF](#).