

Equine Diseases & Treatments

| Disease | Description | Foals/weanlings | Yearlings | Broodmares | Adults |
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| Encephalomyelitis (sleeping sickness, Eastern equine encephalomyelitis, Western equine encephalomyelitis) | Carried and transmitted by mosquitoes; results in inflammation of the nervous system, including the brain | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> From vaccinated mares: 3-dose series at 6, 7 & 9 mos of age From unvaccinated mares: 3-dose series at 3, 4 & 6 mos of age | 1 to 3 years of age: Vaccinate 3-times a year | Booster 4 to 6 weeks prior to delivery date | Annually; spring |
| Equine Viral Rhinopneumonitis (EHV-1 & EHV-4) | Highly infectious herpesvirus, which causes acute fever & respiratory distress characterized by rhinopharyngitis and tracheobronchitis. | 3-dose series starting at 6 mos of age, 4 wks apart | Booster at 1 yr of age | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3, 5, 7 & 9 mos of gestation (inactivated EHV-1) EHV-4 given 2 to 4 wks prior to foaling | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Optional Performance horses: Vaccinate every 3 to 6 mos (depending on risk exposure) |
| Influenza | Highly contagious viral respiratory infection; horses 1 to 5 yrs are most susceptible | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> From vaccinated mares: 3-dose series at 9, 10 & 12 mos (killed vaccine) From unvaccinated mares: 3-dose series at 6, 7 & 8 mos; 3-month intervals thereafter Intranasal MLV: 1st dose given at 11 mos or older; booster every 6 mos | Every 6 mos (intranasal vaccine) | Semi-annual; with 1 booster using killed vaccine 4 to 6 wks prior to foaling | Annually, or based on susceptibility; vaccinate performance horses (2 to 4 yrs of age) every 6 mos |
| Potomac Horse Fever (Neorickettsia risticii) | Bacterial disease affecting multiple systems; causes symptoms of lethargy, diarrhea, mild colic or laminitis | Initial vaccination given at 5 to 6 mos of age; booster in 4 wks | Annually | Booster 4 to 6 weeks prior to foaling | Annually; spring |
| Rabies | Fatal viral disease of the nervous system; transmittable to humans & other species | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> From vaccinated mares: 3-dose series starting at 6 mos of age or older From unvaccinated mares: Start 3-dose series at 3 mos of age | Annually | Booster 4 to 6 wks prior to breeding, or 4 to 6 wks before foaling | Annually |
| Rotavirus | Viral disease, usually affecting foals; causes profuse, watery and malodorous diarrhea | Foals are protected through colostrum | N/A | Pregnant mares should be vaccinated with a 3-dose IM series at 8, 9 & 10 mos of gestation | N/A |
| Strangles (Streptococcus equi) | Contagious bacterial upper-respiratory tract infection; vaccination is generally recommended only in situations or on premises where the disease has been problematic | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Killed vaccine: 3-dose series starting at 4 to 6 mos of age; booster in 4-wk intervals MLV-intranasal: 3-dose series starting at 6 to 9 mos of age; booster in 3 to 4 wks, and again at 12 mos of age | Annually | Optional, depending on risk; annually, booster w/ killed vaccine 4 to 6 wks prior to foaling | Optional, depending on risk |
| Tetanus Toxoid (Clostridium tetani; A.K.A 'lockjaw') | Bacterial infection, which attacks the nervous system, causing the muscles to tighten | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> From vaccinated mares: 3-dose series at 6, 7 & 9 mos of age From unvaccinated mares: Start 3-dose series at 3, 4 & 6 mos of age | Annually | Booster 4 to 6 weeks prior to delivery date | Oral; as needed |
| West Nile Virus | Viral infection carried by mosquitoes, resulting in the inflammation of the nervous system, including the brain. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> From vaccinated mares: 3-dose series starting at 4 to 6 mos of age From unvaccinated mares: Start 3-dose series at 3 mos of age | Booster every 4 to 6 mos, depending on risk | Booster 4 to 6 wks prior to delivery date using an inactivated (killed) vaccine | Annually, unless otherwise specified by your veterinarian |