

November 2019 Equine Newsletter

Influenza Vaccination Update

With the flu outbreak now not reaching headlines it can be easy to think that flu is no longer a concern, however there have been regular outbreaks throughout the summer and an outbreak occurred as recently as October in Berkshire.

The flu epidemic was at its worst in the last week of June 2019 with 27 outbreaks diagnosed. Outbreaks have occurred across the United Kingdom, being reported from Cornwall to Aberdeenshire.

Flu can travel in the wind over several kilometers so even if your horse isn't travelling anywhere there is still a potential risk. Other horses travelling off your yard can also potentially bring flu back with them and horses hacking past your field can also pose a risk. It is also difficult to keep your horse in complete isolation with farriers, physios, vets and other horse owners coming into contact with them. As a consequence we are still strongly advising to vaccinate for flu even if your horse never leaves the yard.

We recommend following the flu vaccine manufacturing guidelines with three vaccines with the first two 4-6 weeks apart followed by a third vaccine 5-7 months following and then annual vaccines.

Different competition venues over the last year have varied from asking for the horse to be up to date with yearly vaccines to 6 monthly vaccines. So it is worth checking several weeks before heading to a venue of their requirements.

Different competition bodies have released new regulations this year as to their requirements for flu vaccines, it is important to try to keep an eye on these changes to avoid being caught out. This is a rough guide to flu vaccines with a variety of different organisations for 2020 (there have been changes to for some within the last month or so for example BD and HPA).

Please note this is not set in stone and to double check with your chosen organisation.

FEI:

- [1st and 2nd vaccination interval: 21-92 days (roughly 3 weeks to 3 months)
These first 2 vaccinations are required before being eligible to compete
- [3rd vaccination anytime within 7 months of 2nd.
- [Can compete if latest booster less than 28 days overdue but fines apply
- [If latest booster is over 28 days overdue can't compete.
- [No need to re-start if booster goes over 6 months and 21 days, but does if goes over 12 months.
- [Can't enter competition venue within 7 days of last vaccination.
- [Warning and fine if vaccination record not up-to-date.
- [Can't compete if have failed to complete a primary course 3 months after a warning for a 3rd vaccination being incorrect.
- [If primary course was given before 01/01/05, there is no need to fulfil requirements for 3rd vaccination, as long as all subsequent vaccinations given within 12 months
- [**The most recent booster injection must have been given within the six calendar months and 21 days prior to the horse arriving at the competition.**

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Pony Club:

- [1st and 2nd vaccination interval: 21-92 days (roughly 3 weeks to 3 months)
These first 2 vaccinations are required before being eligible to compete
- [3rd vaccination must be within 150-215 days.
- [Must not be vaccinated within 6 days of competition.
- [Must comply with BHA rules if entering licensed racecourse property.
- [No requirement for 6 monthly booster

British Horseracing:

- [1st and 2nd vaccination interval: 21-92 days (roughly 3 weeks to 3 months)
Cannot race if not received these first 2 vaccinations
- [3rd vaccination: 150-215 days after 2nd (roughly 5-7 months)
- [Boosters: within 365 days of last vaccination
- [**Most recent vaccination must be within 8 months of running**
- [Can't race within 7 days of previous vaccination (day of vaccination is day 1)
- [Vaccination errors will be assessed by the stewards who will then decide if the horse may run or not, the trainer will receive a penalty, and the horse's vaccinations must be re-started before horse can race again.

British Showjumping, Endurance GB:

- [1st and 2nd vaccination interval: 21-92 days (roughly 3 weeks to 3 months)
These first 2 vaccinations are required before being eligible to compete
- [3rd vaccination: 150-215 days after 2nd (roughly 5-7 months)
- [Subsequent booster injections must be given at intervals of not more than one year, commencing after the first booster injection.
- [Although not a requirement they recommend 6 monthly vaccines.

British Eventing, British Riding Clubs and British Dressage:

- [1st and 2nd vaccination interval: 21-92 days (roughly 3 weeks to 3 months)
These first 2 vaccinations are required before being eligible to compete
- [3rd vaccination: 150-215 days after 2nd (roughly 5-7 months)
- [Subsequent booster injections must be given at intervals of not more than one year, commencing after the first booster injection.
- [For British Dressage and British Riding Clubs shouldn't compete within 7 days of a vaccination.
- [**The most recent booster injection must have been given within the six calendar months prior to the horse arriving at the competition.**

Hurlington Polo Association:

- [1st and 2nd vaccination interval: 21-92 days (roughly 3 weeks to 3 months)
These first 2 vaccinations are required before being eligible to compete
- [3rd vaccination must be within 150-215 days.
- [**Ponies playing or umpiring must have received their last booster vaccination (or second vaccination of a primary course) within the last 6 months +21 days**

If you have any questions relating to the above, please do not hesitate to contact the clinic on 01297304007 or email us at summerleaze@summerleaze-vets.co.uk

