



**NSWERA Procedures Manual  
Hendra Virus July 2011 – NSWERA Risk Management Plan.**

**Hendra Virus July 2011.  
Risk Reduction.**

**Please Note: These Risk Reduction Procedures and the Mandatory logging of temperatures will remain effective until further notice. Hopefully we will soon see an end to this present Hendra episode.**

**An Overview**

**Horses** - Hendra virus is not highly infectious and is only transmitted from one horse to another when they are in very close contact (e.g. nose to nose). This is a totally different situation from Equine Influenza, which is highly infectious. The NSW horse industry is not subject to general movement restrictions for Hendra virus - except for the properties under quarantine. Horse owners should practice good biosecurity, and not travel, work on or take unwell horses to other properties or equestrian events.

**People** - Horses can shed Hendra virus for about three days before they show any sign of illness. So all horse handlers should protect themselves by routinely using good hygiene practices whenever handling horses. Always cover any cuts or abrasions on exposed skin before handling your horse. Always wash your hands with soap and water, particularly after handling your horse's mouth or nose. Do not smoke, eat or touch your eyes, nose or mouth until you have washed your hands.

At Home

Every horse owner, particularly those in areas where fruit bats (flying foxes) may be present, should remain up to date with the current situation and apply the preventive measures recommended by the NSW DPI. Go to:-

<http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/livestock/horses/health/general/hendra-virus>

and more specifically,

<http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/livestock/horses/health/general/horse-events-guidelines>



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### At an Endurance Event

NSW DPI Advises there is no reason to cancel events if people take sensible precautions.

The NSW DPI ‘Horse Events Guidelines’ ( <http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/livestock/horses/health/general/horse-events-guidelines>) set out a series of recommendations for horse event management records that are more than adequately met by our routine ride records, and the following procedure including basic precautions should ensure any remaining risk is further reduced at an Endurance Event.

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Risk Reduction Procedure</u>
Before the Event	Ensure all horses attending an affiliated Endurance ride have not shown any signs of illness or elevated temperature (over 38.5 degrees) for a period of no less than three days prior to the event. Record the temperatures and observations on a Temperature log. Forms may be printed off from the NSWERA web site.
On Arrival	A Temperature log for each horse, signed by the ‘Responsible Person’ is to be presented at the gate. Proceed to your camp site; unload the horses keeping them within your camp area while the yards are set up. Ensure a minimum distance of at least three meters between yards of adjacent camps.
In and Around Camp	<b>Horses</b> – Keep horses in their own yards as much as possible, and when moving them about keep them apart from other horses – particularly avoid nose to nose contact and don’t let them pick in traffic areas. Don’t loiter in the vetting area. <b>People</b> – Routine hygiene practices as noted in the overview above. Don’t handle other people’s horses and discourage other people from approaching your horses.
TPR’s	TPR’s are to avoid the horses’ head and are to clean their hands with alcohol hand cleaner, and use alcohol wipes on their thermometer immediately after each horse. TPR’s with nicks or cuts on their hands must wear gloves. Disposable gloves, P2 masks, and eye protection will be available for use where the head vet and Chief Steward deem it appropriate, or where individuals choose to wear them. To ensure log books are a record of officials that have handled the horse, TPR’s shall initial log book entries.
Vets	The head vet will determine the protocols and procedures adopted by the veterinary team. NSWERA shall make at least one set of full PPE available through the Chief Steward and a quarantine area away from the other horses shall be set aside for suspect horses. The head vet shall determine the course of action / treatment for any horse that becomes ill during the event. In the case of an ill horse evaluate all possible human exposures and refer for medical assessment.
On Track	Riders are advised to keep a distance between their and other horses – avoid nose to nose contact. All check point and gate volunteers are to remain clear of all horses.
Water on Track	Access horse drinking water in order of preference; Clean running water, dams, and then tubs.
Disposal	Collect discarded wipes, gloves, and masks in a dedicated bag, double bag and seal and store safely for one week before disposal as normal garbage.