

Adult Equine Vaccination Guidelines

Please Note: This is a basic guide for this area. We are happy to discuss your specific situation and create a unique vaccination plan that will best suit your horses.

Core Vaccines= Recommended for ALL horses

1. **Rabies:** This neurologic disease is 100% fatal, and is transmissible to humans (“Zoonotic”). It is transmitted by the bite/saliva of an infected animal. This vaccine must be given by a licensed veterinarian.
2. **Eastern/Western Equine Encephalitis:** Another neurologic disease which is nearly always fatal. Humans can also contract his disease; it is transmitted by mosquitoes.
3. **Tetanus:** A neuromuscular disease caused by a bacterial infection usually associated with puncture wounds. This bacteria is common in equine environments, and the disease is usually fatal and/or very expensive to treat.
4. **West Nile Virus:** Another neurologic disease caused by mosquitoes, which humans can also contract. This disease is usually fatal to horses and/or very expensive to treat.

Elective Vaccines= Based upon lifestyle and exposure risk

1. **Equine Herpesvirus (“Rhino”):** A highly contagious respiratory virus, generally causing an upper respiratory infection. Also has potential to cause a neurologic syndrome as well as abortion in pregnant mares. The virus is transmitted from horse to horse by aerosolized nasal secretions. The vaccine is recommended for horses exposed to a diverse population of other horses, through showing, travel, or boarding situations; it is also recommended for all pregnant mares.
2. **Influenza:** Another highly contagious respiratory virus, which causes an upper respiratory infection. Transmitted from horse to horse by aerosolized nasal secretions, the vaccine is recommended for horses showing, traveling or boarding.
3. **Strangles:** Strangles is a highly contagious, respiratory bacterial disease that commonly affects young horses (weanlings and yearlings), but horses of any age can be infected. This disease is spread by both direct and indirect contact with infected horses. Vaccination is recommended on premises where strangles is a persistent endemic problem or for horses that are expected to be at high risk of exposure.

Horses are generally classified into 1 of 3 categories: LOW, MEDIUM, and HIGH exposure

- LOW exposure horses are those that do not leave the property and have minimal contact with other horses (outside of immediate surroundings).
- MEDIUM exposure horses are those that are occasionally taken off-site for trail rides or other exercises wherein they will occasionally come into contact with other horses.
- HIGH exposure horses are those that trail ride often, are transported often for pleasure or show purposes, or in training at a facility. These horses are at highest risk for respiratory disease.

General Vaccination Schedule

Vaccine	Initial Series	LOW exposure	MEDIUM exposure	HIGH exposure	Broodmare
Rabies	Single dose	Once yearly	Once yearly	Once yearly	Vaccinate before breeding or in last 4 - 6 weeks of pregnancy
EEE/WEE	2 doses, 4-6 weeks apart	Once yearly in spring before mosquitoes emerge.	Once yearly in spring before mosquitoes emerge.	Once yearly in spring before mosquitoes emerge.	Once yearly and in last 4 - 6 weeks of pregnancy
Tetanus	2 doses, 4-6 weeks apart	Once yearly*	Once yearly*	Once yearly*	Once yearly in and last 4 - 6 weeks of pregnancy
West Nile Virus	2 doses, 4-6 weeks apart	Once yearly in spring before mosquitoes emerge.	Once yearly in spring before mosquitoes emerge.	Once yearly in spring before mosquitoes emerge.	Once yearly and in last 4 - 6 weeks of pregnancy
EHV (Rhino)	3 dose series, 4-6 weeks apart		Once yearly	Every 6 months	Booster at 5, 7, and 9 months of gestation.
Influenza (Flu)	3 dose series, 4-6 weeks apart		Once yearly	Every 6 months	Twice yearly, one dose in last 4 - 6 weeks of pregnancy
Strangles	2 dose series, 3 weeks apart		<i>Risk based: consult your veterinarian</i>	Once to twice yearly	*Do not administer intranasal vaccine to pregnant mare

*Any horse with an open wound or undergoing surgery should have a tetanus booster if >6 months from last vaccination

Give us a call to schedule your vaccine appointment today!
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