

Biosecurity alert

Hendra virus – information for industry

5 January 2012

New Hendra virus case in Townsville

Biosecurity Queensland has confirmed that samples from a horse in the Townsville area were positive for Hendra virus on Wednesday 4 January 2012.

The three year old horse was first noticed to be unwell on the morning of Tuesday 3 January 2012. The horse owner reported the horse was stumbling, bumping into things and appeared sedated.

A private veterinarian examined the horse on Tuesday 3 January 2012 and collected samples for Hendra virus testing. The horse was recorded as having an acute onset of the following clinical signs:

- blindness
- ataxia
- slightly elevated heart and respiratory rate
- fever
- facial swelling
- clear nasal discharge
- dull demeanour

The horse died late Tuesday evening and was subsequently buried on the property.

Biosecurity Queensland has quarantined the property and is working with the horse owner in conjunction with other government agencies.

Restrictions on the quarantined property apply to the movement of animals and other items onto and off the property.

No other movement restrictions for Hendra virus are in place for horses in Queensland.

More information

All horse owners are encouraged to remain vigilant about the health of their horses.

A Hendra virus information pack which outlines how to reduce the risk of horses becoming infected with Hendra virus is available at www.biosecurity.qld.gov.au

Notify suspected Hendra virus cases by contacting Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23 (business hours) or the Emergency Animal Disease Watch Hotline on 1800 675 888 (24-hour hotline). More information is available at www.biosecurity.qld.gov.au

Contact your GP, local Queensland Health Emergency Department or local Public Health Unit if you have concerns about possible exposure of people to a horse with Hendra virus infection.

For general enquiries about the infection of Hendra virus in humans, call the Queensland Health Hotline on 13HEALTH (13 43 25 84) or visit www.health.qld.gov.au

For information about managing Hendra virus risks at workplaces, contact Workplace Health and Safety Queensland on 1300 369 915 or visit www.worksafe.qld.gov.au



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