

Biosecurity alert

Hendra virus – information for veterinarians

16 July 2011

Current Situation

Hendra virus in Hervey Bay

One property in the Hervey Bay area is under quarantine after test results came back positive for Hendra virus last night.

A private veterinarian attended to the sick horse on 13 July 2011 and reported the clinical signs as a rapid onset, the horse being down and unable to rise, injected mucous membranes, lateral recumbency and a body temperature of 40.5°C.

The horse was euthanased on the 13 July 2011 and has been disposed of on the property.

The following results were obtained:

- Blood PCR positive
- Vaginal swab PCR positive
- Nasal swab PCR positive

There is one other horse on this property which is being assessed and sampled as per protocol.

Hendra virus in Boondall

Two properties in the Boondall area have been quarantined today following confirmation of the virus in a sample from a deceased horse.

A private veterinarian attended to the sick horse on 14 July 2011 and reported that the horse was showing clinical signs of ataxia, intermittent inappetance and lethargy.

The horse had a body temperature of 39.5°C and was euthanased on 15 July 2011 after deteriorating.

Results from laboratories showed the following:

- Blood PCR positive
- Nasal swab PCR positive

There are no horses remaining on this property, however there are six horses on the adjoining property, which is also quarantined.

Biosecurity Queensland will assess and sample the horses and trace the movements to determine if contact has been made with the infected horse or material.

Hendra virus in North Queensland

Biosecurity Queensland continues to work closely with the property owners of the quarantined Kuranda property. The first round of testing from the 36 horses located on this property has been completed.

Hendra virus in South East Queensland

The horses located on the quarantined properties at Beaudesert will undergo their third round of testing at the end of the month.

The horses located on the quarantined properties in the Mt Alford and Park Ridge areas will undergo their second round of testing over the next two weeks.

Hendra virus 2011 summary

In Queensland there are currently six separate locations where Hendra virus cases are being managed by Biosecurity Queensland.

The current cases are located at Beaudesert, Mt Alford, Park Ridge, Kuranda and now Hervey Bay and Boondall.

One property in the Park Ridge area has been removed from being under quarantine.

The total number of properties quarantined as a result of Hendra virus in Queensland is 11.

There have been eight confirmed horse deaths since June 2011.

Only the properties under quarantine have movement restrictions for Hendra virus.

More information

Notify suspected Hendra virus cases by contacting Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23 (during 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 Emergency Department or local Public Health Unit if you have concerns about possible exposure of people to a horse with Hendra virus infection. General enquiries about Hendra virus infection in humans may be directed to the Queensland Health Hotline on 13HEALTH (13 43 25 84).

Contact Workplace Health and Safety Queensland on 1300 369 915 or visit www.worksafe.qld.gov.au if you need information about managing Hendra virus risks at workplaces.

If you have missed any information that has been previously distributed by Biosecurity Queensland, visit the [News and Updates](#) page on the website.

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