**BIOSECURITY INFORMATION**

The term Biosecurity refers to management practices that reduce the chance infectious disease will be carried onto a farm by animals or people and the spread of infectious disease on farms and show venues. All infectious diseases of horses result from the interactions between the animal and its ability to resist disease (immunity), an infectious agent (bacteria, viruses, and parasites) and the environment. These relationships allow opportunities for preventing or reducing infectious diseases.

**There is still time to give your horses a nasal booster, this gives immunity in 5 days. Ask your veterinary for details**

**Healthy Horse Parameters:**

In order for you to know if a horse is under the weather you need to know what their normal numbers are:

- Temperature 100°F
- Resting Heart Rate 28-40 bpm
- Resting Respiratory Rate 10-14 bpm

**Horses can become more prone to disease when they are:**

- In high density populations (like at Fair)
- Commingled (when kids hang out in a group horseback/waiting to go into your class/club riding practice)
- Stressed
- Transported
- Exposed to horses that are sick or apparently healthy horses shedding infectious microorganisms

**Prevention strategies include:**

- Disinfecting stalls and areas your horse will frequent when away from home, horse trailers, water and feed troughs/buckets, stall cleaning equipment...anything else that could be exposed to your horse or other horses
- Washing hands after handling horses, feed, supplies and between horses
- Do not share grooming supplies, stall cleaning equipment or tack, if it is shared it should be disinfected between animals
- Clean end of hose with disinfectant before filling buckets, do not allow hose end to dunk into water, no shared water sources.
- Do not allow nose to nose contact between animals if possible
- Do not allow grazing while away from home
- Quarantine animals for a minimum of 3 weeks when returning from an event where there is a possibility of exposure.
- Be mindful of shoes, clothes, truck tires, manure and anything else that could be contaminated. Change when you get home to prevent any possible spread to your home property.

**Cleaning:**
Disinfecting is only effective if the area is free of dirt and other organic material. Detergents aid water in removing organic material and soil from surfaces, this allows a disinfectant to reach and destroy microorganisms. Dish or dishwasher soap works well for this step. Most disinfectants do not work in the presence of organic material or dirt, therefore using detergent first is a critical step in the cleaning process.

**Do not clean stalls with a pressure washer. This potentially spreads the contaminated material over a much larger area. You may pressure wash AFTER you have disinfected. It is suggested that you use an additional application of disinfectant after pressure washing in case you uncover previously hidden pathogens.**

**Disinfecting:**
Regular household bleach is readily available, cheap and effective. A good rule of thumb is 10 minutes of contact time with a 10% bleach solution achieves effective disinfection for most routine applications. That means 1 part bleach to 9 parts water. In other words...1½ cups bleach per gallon, 3 cups for 2 gallons, 7½ cups for a 5 gallon bucket. Keep in mind that the disinfectant must be remixed fresh daily. Bleach loses its effectiveness over time.

**Tool Kit for Mobile Biosecurity Efforts:**
1. Scrub brush
2. Shovel and broom
3. Soap or detergent concentrate for cleaning
4. Water/hose for mixing cleaner and disinfectant (separately of course!)
5. Measuring cup for measuring accurate amounts of water and disinfectant
6. Bucket for cleaning and mixing disinfectant
7. Appropriate disinfectant concentrate
8. Hand held spray bottle or pump sprayer for applying disinfectant

**What to do after our area is all clean:**
Remind your kids, parents, and visitors of your biosecurity efforts. Practice what you preach. People follow by example. Using consistent biosecurity practices which includes hand washing routine when handling horses will result in others practicing your example.

Alcohol based hand sanitizer will effectively sanitize but washing with soap and water is the best way to remove potential pathogens from hands. Bleach wipes are also an effective way to help prevent passing around bacteria and viruses. Think of it as preschool for horses...use the same strategies you use at home to prevent catching colds.