

Viral diseases of the Horse

Influenza in Horses

INFLUENZA IN HORSES

Influenza is an acute, highly contagious respiratory disease. It is rarely fatal except in young horses. The virus replicates on the epithelial cells of the trachea and bronchial tree.

Clinical Signs

1. high fever
2. cough

Recovery time for mildly affected horses is two to three weeks, but for severe cases recovery may take up to six months.

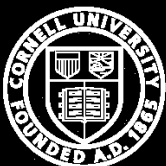
Treatment

Horses without complications require only rest and nursing care to recover. Restricted exercise is mandatory for the horse to fully recover.

Prevention

Vaccination at an early age is recommended. Foal vaccination depends on mare vaccination. If the mare is vaccinated one month before foaling, the foal will be covered for up to nine months. Otherwise vaccinate the foal at 6, 7, and 8 months of age and then at three-month intervals. For horses that have a high exposure level, vaccinate every three months; otherwise, annual or semi-annual vaccinations will be adequate.

This fact sheet was gleaned from material provided by the eXtension website (extension.org), which came from many sources and is for informational purposes only. It is not intended to be a substitute for personalized professional advice. For specific local information, contact your local county Cooperative Extension office, your veterinarian or other qualified professionals.



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