



NH Agricultural Experiment Station

Acknowledgement of Biosecurity Procedures at the UNH Equine Facilities

Please read the following and sign to indicate that you acknowledge and understand these procedures.

What is biosecurity? Biosecurity is any procedure or measure designed to protect the population against harmful biological or biochemical substances. In the equine industry, biosecurity refers to the precautions we take to limit the spread of disease when working with horses. Even the smallest precautions can help to keep horses safe from infectious diseases.

Diseases lead to illnesses that are sometimes fatal and can incur financial costs, welfare concerns, and possible risks to human health. Some infectious diseases are zoonotic, meaning they are caused by viruses, bacteria, or parasites that can spread from animals to humans, putting people at risk.

Sources of pathogens include other horses that are sick, domestic animals such as pets, contaminated food, water and soil, housing areas, and wildlife and pests such as insects, spiders, ticks, rodents, and other nuisance animals.

How does disease spread? Transmission of infection can be direct through physical contact and connection with a pest animal; indirect through contact with clothing, tack, or equipment; ingestion through consumption of contaminated food and/or water; aerosol transmission through tiny, contaminated droplets being released by coughing, sneezing, snorting, or whinnying; airborne when tiny particles are released from disturbed materials on the ground or in feed; and vectors such as insects and other wild animals.

(The above excerpt was taken from the AAEP Biosecurity Guidelines
<https://aaep.org/document/general-biosecurity-guidelines>)

Basic Biosecurity Procedures for Students at the UNH Equine Facility:

- Please wash your hands before handling a horse, ideally, when you arrive at the equine complex.
- Hands should be washed under running water with pump dispensed liquid soap (not bar soap) for a minimum of 20 seconds.
- If facilities are not available for handwashing, hand sanitizer containing at least 61% alcohol should be used and allowed to dry for 10-15 seconds. Hand wipes should be used to remove all organic debris prior to using hand sanitizer.
- Always handle healthy horses before sick ones.

- Sanitize your hands before and after each interaction with an “isolated” horse or any of their equipment, food, medicine, and other items (isolated = sick, new, or travelling)
- Other activities that require hand hygiene procedure before and after are administration of medication, dewormers and feeding of grain and hay.
- Do not use communal water sources or share equipment. **Personal equipment** (saddles, saddle pads, girths, blankets, coolers, etc.) should never be shared or used on UNH horses.
- Please do not visit the farm if you have had recent contact (less than 48 hours) with horses known to be or suspected of being infected with a contagious disease, or if you have recently returned (less than five days) from a foreign country where you had contact with equines or other livestock.
- Remember that your phone is a potential source of contamination if you have been using it while handling horses at the UNH facility or elsewhere. Make it a habit to disinfect your phone when you wash your hands.

Many people focus on the “outbreak management” aspect of biosecurity, but arguably more important are the day-to-day biosecurity practices that minimize the likelihood of a disease outbreak in the first place or make it easier to quickly contain an outbreak with minimal disruption and expense.

AFTER READING THE ABOVE, PLEASE SIGN BELOW AND SUBMIT.

I acknowledge that I have read and understand the best practices for biosecurity and will take appropriate precautions to prevent spread of diseases between animal and between the UNH equine facility and other locations where I may encounter horses or other livestock.

Signature: _____

Printed Name: _____

Date: _____