

As of 7/22/2015, the Colorado Department of Agriculture's State Veterinarian's Office has 29 locations in six counties under quarantine for vesicular stomatitis (VS).

County and Number of Current VS Quarantines:

Delta County 9

La Plata County 4

Larimer County 5

Las Animas County 1

Montezuma County 5

Montrose County 5

Important points to remember:

1. Call the state of destination if writing a CVI for transport of livestock to that state - new import restrictions may be in place now that Colorado has active VS quarantines
2. Confidentiality of quarantine locations are protected under the state statute entitled, Confidentiality of Livestock Information. It protects livestock producer's operation information and animal disease information; this includes horse and location information.
3. If the state of destination needs for you to certify that the livestock that you are exporting from Colorado is not within a certain distance of a VS-quarantined premises. Call our office at 303-869-9130 and one of our staff can map out the location of your client and the location of the nearest quarantine so that you can certify the importing state's question. For example, some states will ask you if your client lives within 10 miles of a VS-quarantined premises.

4. The most important way to mitigate the risk of VS infection is strict fly control. It is the most important factor in inhibiting transmission of VS. Minimizing the number of flies minimizes the risk of contracting VS. Not only is fly control for the horses important but fly control on the premises and good manure management is key to mitigating risk. While direct transmission is a minimal risk, it is still a risk that can be reduced, by avoiding sharing handling equipment between animals or herds.

5. When sampling horses for vesicular stomatitis, PLEASE OBTAIN A SWAB OF THE AFFECTED AREA FOR A PCR TEST AND DRAW BLOOD TO OBTAIN SERUM for a CF test. The swab can be placed in a small amount of TBTB solution (less than 3 ml) or in the same amount of sterile saline. All samples for horses are sampled at CSU-VDL in Fort Collins. Any new cases in a new county (counties where there have not been any confirmed VS cases) need to be tested.

If you have questions or to report any new possible VSV cases, call the State Veterinarian's Office at 303-869-9130 or the USDA APHIS VS Colorado office at 303-231-5385. If after-hours, call the State Veterinarian's Office at 303-869-9130 to obtain the phone number of the staff veterinarian on call.

Thanks for your collaboration!