

**Date:** July 29, 2014 at 3:58:04 PM MDT

**Subject: STATE VETERINARIAN'S OFFICE - VSV Update**

STATE VETERINARIAN'S OFFICE – VSV Update

There are currently 23 confirmed VSV-positive premises in Colorado; the quarantines are located in Boulder, El Paso, Larimer, and Weld Counties. There are still many investigations being conducted on livestock that are exhibiting clinical signs consistent with VSV and samples have been submitted for testing.

If you have VSV-affected premises that have additional horses which are showing clinical signs of VSV, please call our office and let us know. We will not need to collect samples from those newly affected horses but do need to be notified so that we know which horses to examine when it comes time to recheck the lesions and in the release of the quarantine. Quarantines are release 21 days after evidence or presence of new epithelialization covering the lesions.

Again as a reminder, when you are working with your clients that have livestock operations, please continue to emphasize vesicular stomatitis disease prevention practices. The importance of fly control both for the premises and the livestock cannot be overemphasized. In addition, continue to promote good biosecurity by informing clients to minimize the sharing of water, feed, and equipment between animals and premises. And of course, encourage owners to closely observe animals for signs of VSV. Also, please do your part to prevent fly transmission with your vehicle which may include rolling up the windows of your vehicle while on different farms or even spraying the inside of your vehicles with fly spray. For your information, here's the notice that Western Dairy Association sent out to their vendors and dairy farmers:

"As a dairy vendor and business partner, as you visit farms, it is **IMPERATIVE** that you assist in helping our dairy farmers protect their herds. It is of **CRITICAL** importance that you spray the interior of your vehicle with fly spray **PRIOR** to arriving on farm. While on farm, keep windows and doors closed. When leaving a farm, **SPRAY AGAIN** to ensure you are **NOT TRANSPORTING** flies to your next destination. This is particularly important for those who travel

to multiple farms in a day, but must be adhered to for ALL going on and off Colorado dairy farms for the next few months.”

#### Important Points for Veterinarians:

- Any vesicular disease of livestock is reportable to the State Veterinarian’s Office at 303-869-9130 or to 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.
- Since VS is considered a foreign animal disease, any case with clinical signs consistent with VSV will warrant an investigation by a state or federal foreign animal disease diagnostician (FADD).
- When VS is suspected, the FADD will gather the epidemiological information, take the necessary blood samples, collect the necessary fluid or tissue from the lesions, and inform the owners and the referring veterinarian as to necessary bio-security and movement restrictions

When the collection of samples is deemed prudent by the attending veterinarian, here are some suggestions:

1. If vesicles are present - draw up vesicular fluid with a TB syringe and leave in syringe
2. If an epithelium tag/tissue flap is present from a vesicle or oral lesion, collect tissue tag (preferred) or swab the area - place tissue tag or swab into sterile saline in a red top tube (use just enough saline to moisten, do not soak)
3. Collect 10 ml of whole blood, preferably in a serum separator tube and centrifuge or collect 10 ml of whole blood, spin it down and separate serum
4. Keep refrigerated not frozen

A State or Federal veterinarian will be in contact and pick up the samples from your clinic, they will fill out the necessary forms, and ship to NVSL.

For additional information, contact the Colorado State Veterinarian’s Office at 303-869-9130 or to view the current location of cases and other important updates and information you can

visit: [http://www.aphis.usda.gov/wps/portal/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth?1dm y&urile=wcm%3apath%3a%2Faphis\\_content\\_library%2Fsa\\_our\\_focus%2Fsa\\_an](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/wps/portal/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth?1dm y&urile=wcm%3apath%3a%2Faphis_content_library%2Fsa_our_focus%2Fsa_an)

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