

VS Outbreak Update: September 4th, 2014

As of 9/4/2014, the Colorado Department of Agriculture's State Veterinarian's Office has 208 locations under quarantine for Vesicular Stomatitis (VS); 40 of the 248 total quarantines have now been released.

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.

When reporting, if the case is at a boarding stable, let us know the name of the stable as that premises may already be a positive VSV location and that information will aid in the tracking and documentation of the VSV case.

The number of quarantined premises is actually going down in some counties as horses are healing and the quarantines are being released. Yet we continue to receive reports of newly affected horses. The State Veterinarian's Office is following up on reports of horse owners who have moved their horses out of a quarantined facility. If requirements of the Hold Order or Quarantine are not followed, the Department will investigate, write citations for violations, and institute fines according to the Livestock Health Act in State statute. Fines can be up to \$1,000 for each animal that is moved off a premises that is under a Hold Order or Quarantine.

When transporting livestock to other states, be sure to check with the State Veterinarian's Office in the state of destination as to any special new restrictions for the movement of livestock into their state. Some states have instituted new requirements for the import of Colorado livestock due to the VS outbreak.

In Colorado, there have been 344 horses and 7 cows that tested positive for VS.

County totals for premises currently under quarantine are:

- Adams – 10 (1 released)
- Boulder – 61 (10 released)
- Broomfield – 2
- Douglas – 1
- El Paso – 1
- Jefferson – 16
- Larimer – 65
- Morgan - 1
- Weld – 51 (29 released)

For a map of Colorado counties with confirmed cases,

visit http://www.aphis.usda.gov/wps/portal/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth?1dmy&urile=wcm%3apath%3a%2Faphis_content_library%2Fsa_our_focus%2Fsa_animal_health%2Fsa_animal_disease_information%2Fsa_equine_health%2Fsa_vesicular_stomatitis%2Fct_vesicular_stomatitis.

For those veterinarians who are performing lesion rechecks of affected horses, please call our office to let us

know if there is adequate healing to start the 21-day countdown for quarantine release. We will record the date and schedule the final lesion-check for release of quarantine. The final lesion check after 21 days to release the quarantine must be done by a state or federal veterinarian.

Important Points for Veterinarians:

If your clients on VS-positive premises report to you that they have additional horses that are showing clinical signs of vesicular stomatitis, we do not need to obtain additional diagnostic samples from those animals. If those premises report that they now have cattle or other species showing clinical signs suggestive of VS, then we do need to collect and submit samples for testing.

Many practitioners have been collecting samples on initial examination of horses or cattle. This has made the outbreak response more efficient, we thank you for your efforts! When the collecting samples, here are some suggestions:

1. If vesicles present - draw up vesicular fluid with a TB syringe and leave in syringe
2. If epithelium tag/tissue flap present from a vesicle or oral lesion, collect tissue tag (preferred) or swab the area - place in Whirlpac and put on ice until it can be transferred to TBTB solution by an FADD veterinarian
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
5. Information needed for sample submission:
 - Horse name, age, sex, breed - label tube name with horse name
 - # of horses affected and # of total horses on the property/premises

The collected samples can be dropped off at the following locations (not mailed):

1. CSU – Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory
300 West Drake Road
Fort Collins, CO 80523
2. State Veterinarian's Office at the Colorado Department of Agriculture
305 Interlocken Parkway
Broomfield, CO 80021
3. USDA Veterinary Services – District 6 – Colorado Office
755 Parfet Street, Suite 136
Lakewood, CO 80215
4. Rocky Mountain Regional Animal Health Laboratory
2331 West 31st Avenue
Denver CO 80211

If these locations are not convenient for you to drop off the samples, we will pick up the samples at your clinic or some location that is convenient or arranged. The State or Federal veterinarian (foreign animal disease diagnostician = FADD) will then package and ship to NVSL in Ames, IA. They will also be the person to follow up with you and the animal owner on the results.

Thanks again for your work!