

# New Jersey Department of Agriculture

## Division of Animal Health

### Memo

**To:** New Jersey Veterinarians

**From:** Dr. Manoel Tamassia, DVM, M.S., PhD., Dipl. ACT, State Veterinarian  
Director, Division of Animal Health

**Date:** December 24, 2015

**Re:** Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture Confirms 3 Cases of EHM

The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture confirmed today 3 horses at a Bucks County horse farm have been euthanized due to infection with the neurologic form of EHV-1 (EHM). The farm has been under quarantine from the first signs of disease. Trace back information indicates one of the 3 euthanized horses was in a show in New Jersey 10 days before the onset of the disease. The New Jersey Department of Agriculture is in contact with the exposed farm and is monitoring for any signs of the disease.

EHV-1 spreads quickly from horse to horse, has a high morbidity, and can cause a wide range of symptoms from a complete lack of clinical signs, to respiratory problems (especially in young horses), and spontaneous abortions in pregnant mares. Transmission of the virus is mostly via direct contact with infected materials; therefore, tack must not be shared between horses and biosecurity measures must be utilized. While highly infectious, the virus does not persist in the environment and is neutralized by hand soap, alcohol-based hand sanitizers, and sunlight. More information on the Equine Herpes Virus can be found at the New Jersey Department of Agriculture website (<http://www.ag.state.nj.us/>).

EHM is a reportable disease and must be reported to the Division of Animal Health at 609-671-6400. The NJ Animal Health Diagnostic Laboratory (609-406-6999) recommends PCR testing for horses exhibiting neurological signs.

EHV-1	Neurologic PCR (\$50.00) Whole blood PTT*/Nasal swab, brain tissue, spinal fluid	EHV-1 SN titer (\$15.00) 1 ml serum, w/cold pack	1 - 3 days
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Contact Dr. Amar Patil (609) 671-6405 or via email at [amar.patil@ag.state.nj.us](mailto:amar.patil@ag.state.nj.us)

\*PTT-purple top tube

Laboratory specimen(s), along with a laboratory submission form, may be sent to:

*(If sent via courier service):*  
NJ Department of Agriculture  
Animal Health Diagnostic Laboratory  
NJPHEAL, 3 Schwarzkopf Drive  
Ewing, NJ 08628

*(If sent via U.S. Postal Service):*  
NJ Department of Agriculture  
Animal Health Diagnostic Laboratory  
P.O. Box 330  
Trenton, NJ 08625

Laboratory submission form can be found at <http://www.nj.gov/agriculture/ahdl/>

**Please note:** the Animal Health Diagnostic Laboratory will be closed  
December 25, 2015 & January 01, 2016.