

Swiftsure Equine Veterinary Services

***Dr. Danica Olenick, DVM, Dr. Kaitlin McDonald, DVM
& Dr Katharine White, DVM***

On Farm Quarantine

Which horses should be quarantined?

- New horses to the farm
- Travelling horses if the rest of the herd is not fully vaccinated
- Sick horses with unknown cause of disease
- Sick horses infected with a known contagious disease

Excellent biosecurity is the most important factor in making your quarantine successful, and can help accommodate for a less-than-perfect location.

Selecting an appropriate location to quarantine potentially infectious horses is key, and should include:

- ✓ A low-traffic area where non-essential personnel are not frequenting
- ✓ A low-traffic area where animal traffic is at a minimum
- ✓ An area with a minimum of 35 to 40 feet distance away from any other horses to prevent the aerosol spread of respiratory pathogens, and eliminate any chance for direct contact between horses
- ✓ An area well demarcated to keep any non-essential personnel from accidentally coming into contact with the quarantined horse(s)
- ✓ An area located away from any common resources like the hay shed or shavings pile
- ✓ A stall or area that is easily disinfected after the quarantine is lifted, using non-porous surfaces as much as possible

All items used within the quarantine area should not be removed from the area, including:

- ✓ Pitchforks
- ✓ Shovels
- ✓ Muck tubs
- ✓ Water pails
- ✓ Feed buckets
- ✓ Hoses etc.

The personnel handling the horse(s) under quarantine should follow these instructions:

- ✓ Handling be kept to a minimum
- ✓ They should finish their work with the rest of the herd before attending to the quarantined horse(s)
- ✓ They should wash their hands well with an antiseptic soap after working with the quarantined horse(s)
- ✓ They should wear disposable gloves, dedicated boots and coveralls
- ✓ Depending on the cause for the quarantine, disinfecting boot dips may be necessary
- ✓ They should disinfect all of the tools after use daily
- ✓ They should disinfect the quarantine area regularly, and thoroughly after the quarantine has been lifted