

Vesicular Stomatitis Virus (VSV) in Horses

Vesicular stomatitis virus (VSV) is a viral disease that primarily affects horses and cattle and occasionally swine, sheep, goats, llamas, and alpacas. Humans can also become infected with the disease when handling affected animals, resulting in flu-like symptoms, but this is a rare event. Time from exposure to the onset of clinical signs is 2-8 days.

Infected premises are placed under quarantine for a minimum of 14 days. VSV is a state reportable disease.



Symptoms:

1. Excessive salivation
2. Lesions in the mouth & nose
3. Lack of appetite
4. Lesions around the feet
5. Lameness
6. Teat, prepuce & ear lesions

Report:

Vesicular stomatitis is a reportable disease. To report VSV, call the Kansas Division of Animal Health at 785-564-6601.

Prevention:

1. Strict fly control in and around the farm
 - Manure management and elimination of fly breeding areas
 - Appropriate insecticide use for horses, barns, and outdoor areas
2. Do not share equipment, tools, or tack
3. Separate suspect animals immediately and report
4. Shows, fairs, and rodeos may institute new entry requirements
 - A health certificate issued within 2-5 days prior to an event can be beneficial in reducing risks