Checklist – Are you doing these things to prevent sickness?

**AT HOME:**
- Vaccinate your horses – this is your first line of defence against viruses!
- Have signs to tell visitors where to go, where not to go and to identify sick horses
- Protocols – communicate with your stable mates and/or staff – what do you do and why?
- Clean hands! Use alcohol-based sanitizers – salt block holders work well to hold them!
- Clean clothes and boots/footwear – have boots that stay in the barn
- Clean tack and equipment – no sharing
- Monitor your horses – DEPP: Drinking, Eating, Pooping, Peeing – Temperatures too!
- Separate new, returning or sick horses from other healthy horses and monitor
- Talk to your veterinarian, farrier and any other important staff about disease risk

**AT OTHER FACILITIES:**
- Clean trailers with your own broom and shovel
- Be selfish! No sharing and no touching
- Clean hands, clothes and boots!
- Clean tack, buckets and other equipment
- Clean stalls – use your own equipment and wash after use
- Disinfectant wipes for cleaning cross-ties – shorten them to prevent chewing
- Take routine temperatures to monitor for signs you can’t see!
- Separate horses when returning home and monitor them – DEPP!


Learn to reduce the odds of sickness in your horses.

Equine Guelph thanks Vetoquinol for sponsoring this barn poster
Protect Your Horse from Getting Sick

At Home in Your Barn

1. Have a Plan
   - Develop a biosecurity plan that is practical for your farm
   - Dealing with a sick horse is costly and stressful, so remember, you may not be able to do everything, but do something because a little can go a long way in keeping your horse healthy

2. Focus on Prevention
   - Be proactive and focus on what you can control to prevent a potential issue before it arises. Vaccines are your first line of defense
   - Vaccines are useful for preventing diseases caused by viruses (like flu and equine herpes) and bacteria (like Strangles); talk to your vet about how they lower the odds of sickness and limit the severity of the sickness
   - Antibiotics don’t work for diseases caused by viruses; prevention is the best option

Remember, prevention is always cheaper in the long-run. Take action today!

3. Keep Hands, Clothes & Boots Clean!
   - Wash your hands regularly with soap and water, and use a single-use towel to dry them
   - Have several alcohol-based hand sanitizers available
   - Watch where you’re touching your horse — eyes, nose and mouth are where germs want to be, so don’t give them a hand!
   - Designated boots for the barn is best — remember, they still need to be cleaned regularly

4. Clean First and then Disinfect
   - Clean surfaces, stalls, trailers and tack/equipment is key to infection control
   - 3 steps to cleaning:
     1. Clean — brush off all visible manure, soil and bedding (smooth surfaces are best — so patch knots and fill cracks with a polyurethane if you can)
     2. Wash — with soap and water and let dry
     3. Disinfect — apply disinfectant; ask your veterinarian

Visitors and Visiting

5. Be Vigilant on Route
   - If possible, use your own trailer
   - Try not to ship with horses from other farms
   - Clean and disinfect the trailer
   - Upon arrival, don’t use the facility’s shovel or brush to clean out the trailer

6. Be Selfish on the Road!
   - From buckets, brooms and shovels to tack and equipment; “no sharing” should be your motto
   - Think of your time at another facility like you’re on a ride at the fair — keep your hands, feet and equipment to yourself at all times — it’s about preventing the spread of germs!
   - It’s all about focusing on you and your horse, ask yourself: Is there nose-to-nose contact? How clean is your stall? Are your hands and boots clean? Can the cross-ties be shortened to prevent chewing? Are they clean? Can strangers touch my horse?
   - Brush off dirt/manure, then disinfect tack, boots and equipment before leaving (sprays or wipes work well)
   - When you get home, shower and put on clean clothes/shoes before going near other horses

7. Have Rules for Visitors
   - Post a sign to indicate that visitors should check in
   - Keep a visitor’s log — if a disease outbreak occurs, it could help trace the problem
   - Remember — infectious diseases can be transferred from one facility to another through the movement of people, horses or equipment

Managing Sick or New Horses - At Home and Away

8. Isolate New or Sick Horses
   - Think of DEPP! How are they: Drinking, Eating, Pooping, Peeing?
   - Snotty nose or a cough? What is their temperature? — Taking daily temperatures helps you spot issues before you see any signs
   - Give a sick horse its own stall as far away from other horses as possible and isolate your new horse for 2 weeks (recommended)
   - Use separate tack and equipment — tip: use a piece of red duct tape to label all equipment
   - Work with sick/new horses last and always wash up after handling them

Cleaners and Disinfectants for your stable

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