



Royal Agricultural Society of NSW

Royal Agricultural Society NSW (RAS)

Hendra Policy 2021

In accordance with Federal Law, State Law, and the Equine Veterinarians Australia, there is currently insufficient evidence to support a mandatory legal requirement for equine vaccination against Hendra Virus.

Universal precautions should be adopted by all owners and RAS staff in the management of equine body fluids during invasive human-animal interactions.

The Royal Agricultural Society NSW (RAS) has advised that it does not require mandatory Hendra vaccinations for horses attending the Sydney Royal Easter Show, unless they are from endemic Hendra affected areas. However, horse owners from areas unaffected by Hendra should consult with their local veterinarian regarding the risk-benefit assessment of vaccination.

The RAS maintains a higher than legally required standard for the protection of horses and the public from the Hendra virus. The RAS supports the enforcement of international best practice for the prevention of Hendra Virus.

The RAS will follow its bio-security control procedures across the Sydney Royal Easter Show site and within the Horse Pavilions.

All Horse Section staff will be briefed on the procedures for horses on site in regards to the Hendra Virus and the importance of biosecurity.

All horses from endemic Hendra affected areas require mandatory vaccination.

The list for Endemic Postcode is on the RAS website www.rasnsw.com.au/horse

All exhibitors are required to present the staff on Gate 9 with their bench slip. All horses that have been identified as coming from an endemic area will have a different coloured bench slip (bright green) and will be easily identified on arrival.

A current Vaccination Certificate must be emailed to the Horse Section Office horse@rasnsw.com.au prior to arrival at Sydney Showground.

The RAS continues to monitor this situation closely and will keep its policies under close review in the lead up to the Show.

The RAS will inform horse owners if any of the above requirements change or the list of current postcodes for endemic areas is changed due to any new Hendra Virus outbreaks.

Any enquiries can be directed to the Horse section on 02 9704 1220 or
Email to horse@rasnsw.com.au