

Low incidence doesn't negate the risk of West Nile virus in horses

1999

West Nile virus first diagnosed in U.S. horses

Since 1999, thousands of cases of equine WNV encephalomyelitis reported in U.S., with **30-40% fatality rate.**

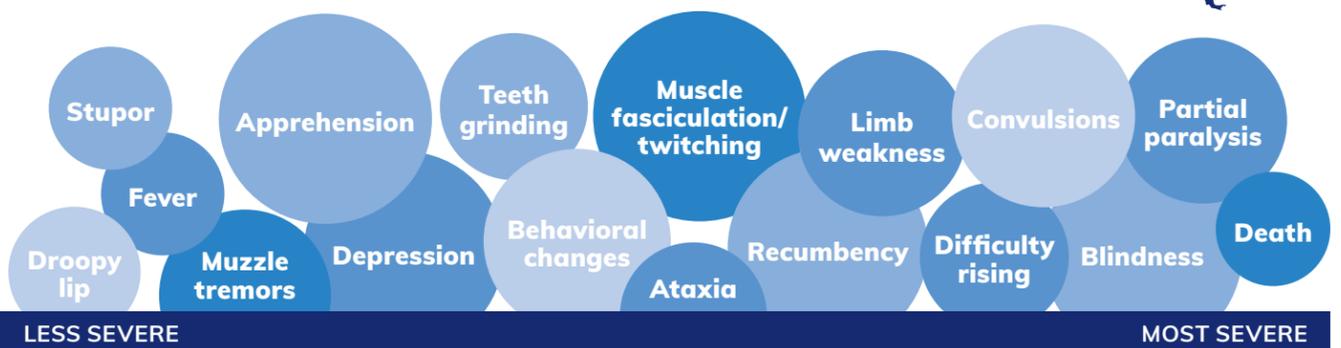
West Nile virus is **endemic** in all areas of North America.



Incubation period in horses is **3-15 days.**



Clinical signs may include:



40% of horses that survive acute illness experience residual effects such as gait and behavioral abnormalities.

Diagnostic blood tests include:

- Plaque reduction neutralization (PRNT)
- Virus neutralization
- Hemagglutination inhibition
- Complement fixation
- ELISA
- Antigen (IgM and IgG) capture ELISA

Preventive management techniques:

- Reduce or eliminate standing or stagnant water accumulation
- Keep horses in barn from dusk until dawn to prevent bites
- Setting mosquito traps
- Oscillating air with fans
- Remove organic debris
- Apply topical mosquito repellents approved for equines
- Vaccination recommended as core vaccine for all horses in North Ame

Risk of exposure and geographic distribution varies yearly. **Therefore, all horses in North America are recommended for immunization.**

Types of vaccines and AAEP recommended administration guidelines:

INACTIVATED WHOLE VIRUS VACCINE

Primary series of **2 doses** to previously unvaccinated horses, with **4-6 week interval** between doses

Revaccinate in **one year**

RECOMBINANT CANARYPOX VECTOR VACCINE

Primary series of **2 doses** to previously unvaccinated horses, with **4-6 week interval** between doses

Revaccinate in **one year**

INACTIVATED FLAVIVIRUS CHIMERA VACCINE

Primary series of **2 doses** to previously unvaccinated horses, with **3-4 week interval** between doses

Revaccinate in **one year**



Benefits of working with your vet to administer vaccines:

1

You'll know the vaccines have been properly stored and handled to maintain efficacy

2

Vets are apprised of the safest vaccination schedules

3

Vets are more experienced with safe injection techniques to minimize side effects

4

Vets can effectively monitor and treat any reactions or side effects

SOURCES

<https://aaep.org/guidelines/vaccination-guidelines/core-vaccination-guidelines> | <https://aaep.org/horsehealth/west-nile-virus-vaccination-guidelines>
<https://www.merckvetmanual.com/management-and-nutrition/health-management/interaction-horses/vaccination-program-for-horses>
https://www.bi-vetmedica.com/species/equine/resources/vaccinating_yourhorse.html | <https://www.veterinarypracticenews.com/more-clients-vaccinating-own-horses/>

© 2019 Covetrus. All Rights Reserved. No copying without permission. Not responsible for typographical errors. Lit. No. XXXXXX (03/2019)