

BE VECTOR AWARE

Frequently Asked Questions Japanese Encephalitis (JE)



What is Japanese Encephalitis (JE)?

Japanese encephalitis is an acute mosquito-borne viral disease that can cause reproductive losses in pigs, and encephalitis in horses and people.



How do Horses/Humans contract JE?

Both animals and people become infected through the bite of infected mosquitoes. The normal lifecycle of JE is between waterbirds and mosquitoes, usually near a waterway. If the waterway is visited by feral pigs, or is close enough to a piggery, infected mosquitoes can transmit the virus to pigs. Horses may also become infected, if near a source of JE infected mosquitoes.



Are there any reported cases of JE in horses?

No confirmed cases in horses have been reported yet in this outbreak.



Can horses and humans spread JE?

No, horses and people are known to be a 'dead end host'.



What are the symptoms in horses for JE?

- In horses, many cases are subclinical, meaning that they can be infected but show no signs of the disease. Most clinical disease is mild, however, more severe encephalitis can occur which may be fatal.
- Signs include an elevated temperature, jaundice, lethargy, anorexia, and neurological signs which can vary in severity.
- Neurological signs can include incoordination, difficulty swallowing, impaired vision, and in rare cases the horse becomes over excited.



How can I protect my horse from JE?

Currently there is not a vaccine available for JE in Australia. Emergency permits are currently being processed. [Click here](#) if you would like to be informed when a vaccine is made available.

Simple steps you can take include the following:

- Put a hooded rug on them, a fly mask, and if the horse allows, apply a safe insect repellent following the manufactures guidelines.
- The Australian mosquito that transmits JE feeds at night and usually does not enter dwellings, so stabling horses between dusk and dawn can be beneficial.

For detailed guidance on mosquito management and the chemicals you are able to use to protect your premise [click here](#).



How do I protect myself from JE?

- Use mosquito repellent containing picaridin or DEET on all exposed skin.
- Actively avoid mosquitoes — use insect screens, mosquito nets, coils and vaporisers, and wear long, loose fitting clothing.



JE information in your state or territory in relation to animals

[Japanese encephalitis \(nsw.gov.au\)](#)

[Japanese encephalitis | Important animal diseases | Animal diseases | Biosecurity | Agriculture Victoria](#)

[Japanese encephalitis | Business Queensland](#)

[Japanese encephalitis – PIRSA](#)

[Japanese encephalitis in animals | NT.GOV.AU](#)

Updates of human health is available via the The Australian Government Department of Health [human health](#) including information around [vaccines](#).



Who do I call if I think my horse has JE?

JE is a nationally notifiable disease which means if an animal is showing suspected signs of the disease, it must be reported to a veterinarian or the national **Emergency Animal Disease Watch Hotline** on **1800 675 888**. This number goes directly to the state or territory's agriculture department i.e. if you call the number in NSW you will get the NSW Department of Primary Industries.

EMERGENCY ANIMAL
DISEASE WATCH HOTLINE
1800 675 888



www.racingaustralia.horse