

[CFIA Premises infected with EIA in Canada in&nbsp;2017](#)

[Equine Infectious Anemia Surveillance Information - US Department of Agriculture](#)

**EIA IN SASKATCHEWAN**  
KEY FACTS ABOUT EQUINE INFECTIOUS ANEMIA (EIA)

**What is equine infectious anemia (EIA)?**  
Equine infectious anemia (EIA) or swamp fever is a viral disease of horses, mules and donkeys. Once horses are infected with the EIA virus, they remain lifelong carriers and are a potential viral source. There is no cure for EIA, which is a reportable disease in Canada. The equine industry and Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) share responsibility for EIA control in Canada: detection is through voluntary industry testing while the CFIA is responsible for mandatory response.

**EIA is commonly transmitted by blood. How?**  
**By insects:** Large biting insects (horse flies and deer flies) transfer blood from one horse to another through successive bites. When a horse's defensive mechanisms overcome their blood meals, the insects will attack the same horse or a second host to complete feeding. Any infected blood present on the insect's mouthparts can be mechanically transferred to another host.  
**By people:** Reusing contaminated needles and syringes, surgical instruments and other equipment are common sources for EIA infection. The use of contaminated equine blood transfusion products is another infection source.

**What is the virus' incubation period?**  
The time before the symptoms of a viral infection appear is called the incubation period. The incubation period for EIA depends on several factors including the initial dose of virus and the horse's individual immune system. Once a horse is infected, it can be a source of infection whether it shows clinical signs or not. The incubation period can range from two weeks to two months. A variable incubation period means there may be a slight chance that a horse testing negative for EIA is actually in the early stages of infection. During this period, a horse may receive a negative test result because its immune system hasn't responded to a level that can be detected by available screening tests. This is why veterinarians recommend that owners test their horses each spring, even if their animals are only in contact with EIA-negative horses.

**EIA Control - it can be done.** It is possible the Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA) is more likely to be detected in some areas as witnessed the information on positive tests Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) many of the areas that are potential hot spots are on the east slopes of the Rocky Mountains in Alberta... < [more](#) >

**15 Mar 2016 - Saskatchewan Horse Federation:** To help control the spread of equine infectious anemia (EIA) among the province's horse population, members of the Saskatchewan Horse Federation (SHF) have passed a motion requiring mandatory EIA testing of all horses attending SHF-sanctioned events, as of Jan. 1, 2017..

< [more](#)

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- [EIA in Saskatchewan, Key Facts about Equine Infectious Anemia \(EIA\)](#)
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### What is EIA?

**Equine infectious anemia (EIA)**, also known as “swamp fever,” is a viral disease of horses and other equids (i.e. donkeys, mules, and zebras) that causes recurrent episodes of fever, lethargy and destruction of red blood cells (anemia) and platelets (thrombocytopenia).. (

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**With neither cure nor vaccine in existence, veterinarians and researchers must supervise the equine infectious anemia virus closely to avoid widespread disease**

### Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA)

- Premises infected with EIA in Canada in [2016](#)
- Premises infected with EIA in Canada in [2015](#)
  
- [Federally Reportable Diseases for Terrestrial Animals in Canada](#)
- [What to expect if your animals are infected](#)
- Animal Health Compensation - [What to expect when an animal is ordered destroyed](#)

### Alberta Veteriarian Medical Association

- [Understanding Equine Infectious Anemia \(EIA\)](#)
- [Biosecurity in Practice - Planning](#)
- [Minimizing the Risk of EIA](#)

### Other Resources

- [Serologically silent, occult equine infectious anemia virus \(EIAV\) infections in horses](#)
- [Examining the stable door after the horse has bolted: Why is EIA such a challenge?](#)
- [Equine infectious anaemia in Europe: Time to re-examine the efficacy of monitoring and control protocols?](#)
- [Equine infectious anaemia and mechanical transmission: man and the wee beasties](#)
- [Equine Infectious Anemia in 2014: Live with It or Eradicate It?](#)
- Worms & Germs Blog, promoting safe pet ownership - [Equine Infectious Anemia: New info sheet](#)
- [Fight Against Equine Infectious Disease Helped by Equine Foundation of Canada](#) • Equine Guelph