On February 6, 2019, a positive EIA result was confirmed by the CFIA’s national reference laboratory for a horse located on a premises in Red Deer County, Alberta. The horse had been sampled by the CFIA to comply with export conditions and no clinical signs of the disease were reported at the time of sampling. A CFIA investigation is currently underway and as per program policy, a quarantine has been placed on the infected animal and its on-premises contact animals. Initial reports indicate that there are several equines on the premises. The quarantine will remain until all disease response activities have been completed, including follow-up testing and ordering the destruction of positive cases. Trace-out activities may require the CFIA to undertake actions at additional premises as outlined in the current policy.

More details on EIA may be found on the Canadian Food Inspection Agency website.

Proposed National Equine Infectious Anemia Disease Control Program (CFIA)

Proposed national disease control program for equine infectious anemia: Closed consultation

What We Heard Report - Consultation on the proposed equine infectious anemia disease control program

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). 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

- Accredited Veterinarian's Manual - 8.4 Equine Infectious Anemia (Updated June 2018)
- Equine Infectious Anemia Disease Control Program - A Report on the Recommendations of the EIA Program Working Group
- 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 Veterinarian Medical Association

- Understanding Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA)
- Biosecurity in Practice - Planning
- Minimizing the Risk of EIA
- Horse Journals - Understanding the Threat of EIA

Other Resources

- Equine Guelph - Fight Against Equine Infectious Disease Helped by Equine Foundation of Canada
- SK Horse Federation - EIA in Saskatchewan, Key Facts about Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA)
- The Veterinary Journal - Serologically silent, occult equine infectious anemia virus (EIAV) infections in horses
- The Veterinary Journal - Examining the stable door after the horse has bolted: Why is EIA such a challenge?
- US Equine Disease Communication Center - CURRENT EQUINE DISEASE OUTBREAK ALERTS
- US Department of Agriculture - Equine Infectious Anemia Surveillance Information
- Equine Veterinary Journal - 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