

Advisory from Dr. Rick Arthur, equine medical director, California Horse Racing Board:

Effective immediately, the voluntary quarantine of Northern California racetracks is lifted. There have been no additional clinical cases of Equine Herpes Virus-1 (EHV-1) at Golden Gate Fields since the quarantine was established on December 29, 2006. The restriction, isolation procedures, and extensive use of PCR testing for EHV-1 among exposed and high-risk horses allowed for the rapid resolution of the quarantine. Horsemen are encouraged to continue prudent hygiene practices and to check the temperature on all horses twice a day.

Dr. David Wilson, his colleagues, and the students from the School of Veterinary Medicine at UC Davis must be commended for their work on this EHV-1 control program. Dr. Diane Isbell, the morning association veterinarian at Golden Gate Fields, closely monitored the horses during the quarantine. Dr. Joan Hurley was the CHRB's Official Veterinarian.

Three horses have been diagnosed with EHV-1 at Los Alamitos subsequent to laboratory confirmation of the virus. The cases are confined to one barn with similar restrictions and testing protocol as were in place at Golden Gate Fields.

There will be educational seminars on EHV-1 for owners and trainers at Santa Anita on Tuesday, January 16, and at Golden Gate Fields on Wednesday, January 17. Dr. Wilson and Dr. John Madigan from the equine medical staff at UC Davis will be the main speakers. The exact details will be available shortly. All horsemen are encouraged to attend.