

## Equiflunet pages

### Vaccines

#### Current recommendations and UK vaccines

Like other influenza viruses, equine influenza constantly changes so vaccine strains need to be updated periodically.

Information is collected from viruses from all over the world, which is used to recommend suitable strains for vaccines. As part of this process the HBLB sponsors surveillance of equine influenza in the UK. An independent panel of worldwide experts, including UK scientists, meet every year to select strains.

The official recommendations are approved by the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and are available on the [OIE website](#).

The **current recommendations** are that vaccines for the international market should contain both clade 1 and clade 2 viruses of the Florida sublineage: **Clade 1** is represented by A/eq/South Africa/04/2003-like or A/eq/Ohio/2003-like viruses.

**Clade 2** is represented by A/eq/Richmond/1/2007-like viruses  
The recommendations have not been changed since 2010. Two vaccines available in the UK contain a recommended Clade 1 strain, only one product contains a recommended Clade 2 strain:

<i>Vaccine name</i>	<i>Conform to 1995 recommendations</i>	<i>Conform to 2004 recommendations</i>	<i>Conform to 2010 recommendations</i>
Equip F	✓	X	X
Equilis Prequenza		✓	X
ProteqFlu			✓



#### Equip F, Equip FT

Virus strains include:

- H3N8 European - Borlänge/91
- H3N8 American - Kentucky/98
- H7N7 - Newmarket/77

Recommended dosing regime: primary course - 1st vaccine from the age of 4 months, 2nd vaccination 6 weeks after the first, 3rd vaccination 5 months after the second. Boosters every 12-15 months thereafter.



### **Equilis Prequenza, Equilis Prequenza Te**

Virus strains include:

- H3N8 European - Newmarket/2/93
- H3N8 Florida Clade 1 - South Africa/4/03

Recommended dosing regime: primary course - 1st vaccination from the age of 6 months, 2nd vaccination 4 weeks after the first, 3rd vaccination 5 months after the second. Boosters every 12 months thereafter.



### **ProteqFlu, ProteqFlu-TE**

Equine influenza virus strains included:

- H3N8 Florida Clade I - Ohio/03
- H3N8 Florida Clade 2 - Richmond/1/07

Recommended dosing regime: primary course - 1st injection from the age of 5-6 months, 2nd injection 4-6 weeks after the first, 3rd injection 5 months after the primary course. Boosters every 12 months thereafter.

### **Vaccination regulations and dosing regimes**

To ensure that horses gain the maximum protection from vaccination, vaccines need to be given according to the manufacturer's instructions on the product label.

The FEI and BHA regulations allow vaccination within a wider range of dates than the datasheets, but to ensure the optimum performance from any one type of vaccine the product label should be followed as accurately as possible.

To provide optimum protection please use the same product for all three doses of the primary course.



### **FEI regulations**

- A primary course of two vaccinations between 21 and 92 days apart (3 weeks to 3 months).
- A third vaccination within 7 months of the second vaccination.
- Thereafter boosters must be within a year.
- All horses being entered for FEI competition must have received an equine influenza booster vaccination a maximum of 6 months +21 days before the day of competition entry.
- Horses may not be vaccinated within 7 days of arrival at the FEI event.

In reality all horses competing regularly will need to have biannual boosters. All equine influenza vaccines currently available in the UK are permitted by the FEI.



### **BHA Rules of Racing**

- A primary course of two vaccinations between 21 and 92 days apart (3 weeks to 3 months).
- A third vaccination between 150 and 215 days after the second vaccination.
- Further booster vaccinations at intervals of not more than a year apart, although temporary rule changes regarding booster intervals might be implemented.

None of the vaccinations must have been given on the day of a race in which the horse is declared to run or on any of the 6 days before the race.

All equine influenza vaccines currently available in the UK are permitted by the BHA.

### **Adverse events, reactions and their reporting**

Any adverse event that a horse experiences after receiving an influenza vaccination should be reported to the vaccine manufacturer, even if the vaccine has been used off label. This is one of the major ways the manufacturers monitor both the safety and efficacy of their products.

The Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD) also monitors the safety and efficacy of veterinary products in the UK.

**Adverse events include:**

1. Suspected failure to protect – i.e. a horse that develops signs of influenza when a product is used according to the label.
2. Any reactions, clinical signs or illness that follows injection either on or off label

Adverse reactions should be reported directly to the vaccine manufacturers as well as to the VMD by filling out an adverse event reporting form. If a horse has received more than one type of vaccine then it is the manufacturer of the last vaccine given that should be reported to.

**Contact details for reporting adverse reactions:**

Adverse events should be reported on an Adverse Event Reporting Form, which can be found on the VMD gov.uk website <https://www.gov.uk/report-veterinary-medicine-problem>. More information can be found on the gov.uk website explaining pharmacovigilance and adverse events by following this link: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/veterinary-pharmacovigilance-your-responsibilities>

**Adverse Event Reporting forms can also be requested from:**

Veterinary Medicines Directorate  
FREEPOST KT4503  
Woodham Lane  
New Haw  
Addlestone  
Surrey KT15 3BR.

**Influenza in Vaccinated Horses**

We would particularly like to hear from you if you have a case of influenza that has been confirmed by laboratory testing in a horse that has been vaccinated on-label. Telephone: 07949 594017 Email: [equinesurveillance@gmail.com](mailto:equinesurveillance@gmail.com)

**Contact details for the vaccine manufacturers:**

**Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health UK Ltd** producers of ProteqFlu

Telephone: 01344 746957  
Email: [vetenquiries@boehringer-ingelheim.com](mailto:vetenquiries@boehringer-ingelheim.com)

**MSD Animal Health** producers of Equilis Prequenza

Telephone: 01908 685685  
Email: [vet-support.uk@msd.com](mailto:vet-support.uk@msd.com)

**Zoetis** producers of Equip F

Telephone: [0845 300 8034](tel:08453008034)  
Email: [customersupportUK@zoetis.com](mailto:customersupportUK@zoetis.com)