

This is an update from Dr. Rick Arthur, equine medical director for the California Horse Racing Board:

Two barns are under quarantine at Los Alamitos Race Course following the deaths of two horses from the Equine Herpes Virus (EHV-1). One was a stable pony; the other was a racehorse. Laboratory results are pending on several suspect cases. Biosecurity procedures are in place for all communal areas, including the receiving barn, post parade, and starting gate. Dr. Robert Guillen, the CHRB official veterinarian at Los Alamitos, is monitoring the situation and reporting to the equine medical director. Dr. Guillen is also reviewing hygiene and biosecurity procedures with trainers and barn personnel in the ongoing effort to keep the problem under control.

Biosecurity measures also are in place at Golden Gate Fields for the test barn and starting gate. A mare stabled at Golden Gate aborted and the fetus tested positive for EHV-1. The mare and five other horses of concern have tested negative for EHV-1 but the mare has been removed from the track. The mare was in a relatively isolated part of the barn and there are no other sick or fevered horses. After evaluation of the laboratory results and in consultation with Dr. Joan Hurley, the official veterinarian, and Dr. Diane Isbell, the racing veterinarian at Golden Gate, the barn has not been placed under quarantine. Temperatures are being monitored twice daily, and all personnel have been briefed on hygiene procedures.