

2015 Vesicular Stomatitis Virus (VSV) Response Protocol for Veterinarians

**ALL NON EQUINE LIVESTOCK CASES (such as Cattle, Sheep, Goats, Pigs, Camelids)
WILL BE INVESTIGATED BY THE STATE OR FEDERAL ANIMAL HEALTH OFFICIALS**

Equine Cases

1. Practicing veterinarian or state/ federal animal health official initiates VSV investigation.
2. **Notify the State Veterinarian's Office** or CO USDA VS Office if:
 - cases have suspicious lesions
 - cases are tested for VSAlthough investigation requirements have changed, ***VS remains a reportable disease.***
3. Determine if the owner of the premises with the involved horse desires one of two options:
 - Wants to proceed with laboratory testing **at animal owner's expense**
 - i. Issue verbal Hold Order
 1. The verbal Hold Order on the property restricts the movement of horses and other susceptible animals from leaving the premises.
 - ii. Collect samples and submit to CSU Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (CSU-VDL), (refer to the VSV Sample Collection Protocol at the end of this document)
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 - Prefers to be handled as a positive premises with no laboratory testing
****This option is only available in counties that have already experience a confirmed positive case****
 - i. Quarantine the premises
 1. A Quarantine (a formal written **no movement** requirement) will be placed on the movement of horses and other susceptible animals from the premises. The quarantine will remain in effect for a minimum of 14 days after the start of VSV lesions in the last affected animal.
 2. Any animals added to premises during the quarantine period cannot leave the premises until the Quarantine is lifted.
 - ii. Inform owners they will receive a written Quarantine from the State Veterinarian's Office.
4. Report decision to the State Veterinarian's Office. Include the following information:
 - Animal owner name, address phone number
 - Boarding facility if applicable
 - **Physical address/location of animals**
 - Number of animals affected
 - Number of animals and additional livestock on premises
 - Number of animals sampled
 - Veterinarian who visited and contact number
 - Photos if available, email to animalhealth@state.co.us

5. Sample Submission (Sample collection details are listed on the following page)
 - Samples on equine suspects should be submitted to CSU-VDL
 - i. Submit samples along with the completed CSU-VDL sample submission form to CSU Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory
 - ii. Include the filled out VSV Investigation Worksheet
 - iii. If additional testing is needed at NVSL, required paperwork will need to be completed – contact State Veterinarian’s Office
6. Sample Results
 - Negative – release verbal Hold Order
 - Positive
 - i. A Quarantine (a formal written **no movement** requirement) will be placed on the movement of horses and other susceptible animals from the premises. The quarantine will remain in effect for a minimum of 14 days after the start of VSV lesions in the last affected equine. If other livestock on the premises are affected, a longer quarantine may be implemented. .
 1. Any animals added to premises during the quarantine period cannot leave the premises until the quarantine is lifted.
 - ii. Inform owners they will receive a written Quarantine from the State Veterinarian’s Office.
7. Results Reporting
 - CSU Veterinary Diagnostic Lab will report results to the practicing veterinarian, State Veterinarian’s Office, and CO USDA VS Office.
8. Case Release
 - Practicing veterinarian and state and federal animal health officials collaborate on release of the Quarantine.
 - i. Horses with persistent clinical lesions will be handled on a case by case basis.
 - ii. Some premises may require a visit by state or federal animal health officials prior to release.
 - State Veterinarian’s Office issues a written Quarantine Release at the appropriate time.

Livestock Cases – Cattle, Sheep, Goats, Pigs, Camelids

1. Contact State Veterinarian’s Office or CO USDA VS Office with **ALL** suspect livestock cases.
2. State or federal animal health officials who are trained as a FADD will handle all the investigations.
 - a. All samples on livestock suspects need to be collected by the FADD.

Sample Collection - Equine

1. Collect diagnostic specimens ONLY from animals with lesions.
2. Specimens to collect:
Collect in all cases:
 - a. **Sterile swabs – (Dacron)** of lesions placed in a screw-cap tube with a maximum of 3 mL TBTB media - *if TBTB is not available, sterile saline can be used*
 - b. **Serum** – at least 2 mL, preferably separated from the clot (CF test can be impacted negatively if serum is not separated from the clot)
Collect if possible:
 - c. Vesicular fluid (from unruptured vesicles)— place in screw-cap tube. If a screw-cap tube is not available, place in plastic serum tube (“snapcap”) and tape or parafilm the lid to prevent leakage. DO NOT submit in a syringe.
 - d. Vesicular tissue (epithelium)—place in screw-cap tube with a maximum of 3 ml. of tris-buffered tryptose broth (TBTB) – *if TBTB is not available, sterile saline can be used*
3. Complement Fixation and PCR tests will be run on samples sent to CSU-VDL

Sample Collection – Ruminants and Swine

4. Additional specimens for the state/federal FADD to collect from ruminants and swine:
CONTACT STATE OR FEDERAL OFFICE FOR FADD COLLECTION FOR PROTOCOL TO FOLLOW
 - a. Esophageal-pharyngeal (OP) fluid – collected by probang and placed in TBTB medium (50:50) in a wide-mouth screw-cap tube.
 - b. Whole blood – 10 mL (both heparin and EDTA)
 - c. Complete set of tissues – especially lymph nodes from dead animals