

Equine Coronavirus (ECoV) is NOT the same as COVID-19.

Q: What is Equine Coronavirus?

A: The equine coronavirus (ECoV) and COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2) are two distinct RNA viruses. ECoV can cause gastrointestinal disease in horses with signs of fever, depression, diarrhea and colic. ECoV is spread by fecal contamination from horse to horse or from contact with items contaminated with feces. Biosecurity measures and isolation should be implemented in horses that have or are suspected to have ECoV.

For more information about ECoV go to:

<https://aaep.org/sites/default/files/Documents/Outside%20Linked%20Documents/DiseaseFactsheetCoronavirusFINAL%20Cobranded%20.pdf>

AND

<https://www.vet.cornell.edu/animal-health-diagnostic-center/veterinary-support/disease-information/equine-enteric-coronavirus>

Q: Can COVID-19 affect horses?

A: To date there is no evidence that COVID-19 causes disease in horses or other animals. There is also no evidence that horses can be a source of COVID-19 infection in people. However, because animals can spread other diseases to people and people can also spread diseases to animals by contact, it's a good idea to always wash your hands before and after interacting with animals.

The American Veterinary Medical Association has more information on COVID-19 and handling pets: https://www.avma.org/sites/default/files/2020-03/covid-19-faq-pet-owners_031620.pdf.

Q: What if my horse needs routine or emergency care during the restrictions caused by the COVID-19 outbreak.

A: In the event that your horse needs veterinary care, call your veterinarian to discuss whether the care is essential. Because of the efforts to reduce the potential for human exposure to COVID-19, routine care may need to wait until there is no risk for COVID-19 exposure to you or your veterinarian. Telemedicine may be a way to provide veterinary care for your horse without risking exposure to COVID-19. For emergency care, call your veterinarian to determine how veterinary care can be delivered while following appropriate biosecurity to prevent exposure to COVID-19. Do not take your horse to a veterinary hospital until you have consulted with your veterinarian.

The Equine Disease Communication Center continues to report infectious disease outbreaks for horses. More information about horse infectious diseases and biosecurity are available on the EDCC website at <http://equinediseasecc.org>.

