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Chief Provincial Veterinarian

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## Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA) cases in Alberta in 2021.

As of December 6th, 2021, 87 cases of EIA have been detected on 15 premises, located in 10 different counties or municipalities (Athabasca, Big Lakes, Bonnyville, Foothills, Grande Prairie, Lac Ste. Anne, Opportunity, Parkland, Smoky Lake, and Sturgeon). The Office of the Chief Provincial Veterinarian is electing to notify all owners of horses registered in Alberta's PID system by email to increase horse owner awareness.

For more current information, new cases are generally available on the Canadian Animal Health Surveillance Systems (CAHSS) equine disease dashboard within 2 to 3 weeks of detection by CFIA. A link to the dashboard can be found at the CAHSS equine network page at <https://cahss.ca/cahss-networks/equine>

### Signs of EIA and what to do

Infected animals may show few clinical signs of disease, particularly in the early stages of infection. However, infected animals remain carriers of the virus for life, putting other animals at risk. Infected animals may show some of the following signs:

- loss of coordination\*
- anorexia
- depression
- general weakness
- intermittent fever up to 41°C
- jaundice
- bleeding under the tongue and eye
- swelling of the extremities
- weight loss

\*Note: loss of coordination may be the only clinical sign observed.

EIA is a federally reportable disease, which means that producers or veterinarians must notify the CFIA of all suspected or confirmed cases. If you suspect your horse may be infected, contact your veterinarian as soon as possible. Many other diseases can cause the same signs in horses, which is why it's so important to call your veterinarian to examine and possibly test your horse for EIA. There is **no human health risk** with EIA.

### Preventing EIA and more information

While no vaccine is available for EIA, you can ask your veterinarian about other ways to prevent EIA in your horses. You can also visit the CFIA website at [bit.ly/1gNSwGN](http://bit.ly/1gNSwGN) to learn more about prevention and other general information about EIA. If you have any additional questions or concerns, please contact the Office of Alberta's Chief Provincial Veterinarian at 780-427-3448.

### About this notice

You have received this notification as an animal owner who has registered your land location in Alberta's Premises Identification System. It is important your information in the system is accurate and up-to-date for effective and timely notification. To check if your information (e.g. contact information, location, species at the location) is current or to make a change, please visit <https://partners.agric.gov.ab.ca/pid/> or call the Alberta Ag-Info Centre toll-free at 310-FARM (3276).