

OIE expert surveillance panel on equine influenza meets to discuss the composition of equine influenza vaccines for 2019



Equine influenza (EI) is a highly contagious respiratory disease of horses, donkeys, mules and other equidae. Equine influenza is an OIE-listed disease and must be reported to the OIE in accordance with Chapter 1.1 of the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* (the *Code*). For the prevention and control of the disease, vaccination is practiced in most countries. Vaccination is a recommended risk management measure for trade in live horses in accordance with Chapter 12.6 of the *Code*, which cross-references the standards for vaccine manufacture within the *OIE Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals*. Every year the OIE convenes an Expert Surveillance Panel to update recommendations on which strains should be included in the EI vaccines.

In April 2019, the expert panel met at OIE Headquarters and examined the current strains of viruses in circulation worldwide. There was an increase in equine influenza activity in 2018/19 and outbreaks of EI were reported in Africa, Asia, Europe, North America and South America. The genetic analysis of all viruses detected were characterised as clade 1 Florida sub-lineage of the American lineage and antigenically related. The OIE expert panel recommended that vaccines should contain both clade 1 and clade 2 viruses of the Florida sub-lineage.

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