

FLU UPDATE

11th February 2019

The full extent of the flu outbreak in racehorses in the UK is still unknown as we await test results on all horses who may have been in contact with horses from affected yards. As far as we are aware, there have not been any reported cases in any of our neighbouring counties.

Equine flu is endemic within the equine population worldwide, which is why we have always recommended that all equines should be vaccinated. This “headline news” about an outbreak causing racing to be cancelled is hopefully simply a timely reminder to us all as to why vaccination is so important.

In the face of a potential increased challenge, our current recommendation is to ensure that all vaccinations are up to date, and to discuss with one of our vets whether a booster would be appropriate if the last vaccination was over 6 months ago.

All the vaccines we use are effective against the flu strains involved, and the BEF statement    which was re-quoted by many organisations last week naming 2 particular vaccines has now been amended. Please remain vigilant, look out for any clinical signs, and call us if you have any worries.

Further information can be found at:

<https://www.aht.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/What-to-do-with-equine-flu.pdf>