



SPECIAL REPORT

Vaccinating Your Horse

The reason we vaccinate our horses is simple: We want to minimize their risk of contracting a life-threatening and/or infectious disease. With that said, the American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP) has designated certain vaccines as “core vaccines” all horses should receive annually, regardless of age, use, or location. Use this [AAEP Vaccination Guidelines](#)-based “cheat sheet” and work with your vet to devise an immunization program that’s right for your horse.



KEVIN THOMPSON/THE HORSE

CORE VACCINES

Veterinarians recommend nearly all horses receive the core equine vaccines: tetanus, Eastern and Western equine encephalomyelitis (EEE/WEE), West Nile virus (WNV), and rabies.


	WHAT HORSES NEED IT?	HOW MANY TIMES A YEAR?	SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS
Tetanus	All horses	Once annually, after an initial two-dose series at a 4- to 6-week interval.	Revaccinate horses that sustain a wound or undergo surgery 6 or more months after their last tetanus booster.
EEE/WEE	All horses	Once annually, after an initial two-dose series at a 4- to 6-week interval.	Vaccinate horses in high-risk areas with year-round vectors (e.g., mosquitoes) 2-3 times yearly.
WNV	All horses	Once annually, after an initial two-dose series at a 4- to 6-week interval.	Vaccinate horses in high-risk areas with year-round vectors (e.g., mosquitoes) twice yearly.
Rabies	All horses	Once annually.	

RISK-BASED VACCINES

Veterinarians recommend risk-based vaccines depending on the horse’s region, population, and disease risk. These include the following:

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Anthrax	Those pastured in areas where alkaline soil conditions favor the disease-causing organism.	Once annually, after an initial two-dose series at a 3- to 4-week interval.	Veterinarians do not recommend vaccinating pregnant mares.
Botulism	Pregnant mares in Kentucky and the mid-Atlantic seaboard states and horses consuming large round hay bales, haylage, or silage.	Once annually, after an initial three-dose series at 4-week intervals.	This vaccine is only effective against botulism type B, which occurs in spoiled hay and haylage. It does not protect against botulism type C, which occurs when hay/feed is contaminated with animal remains.
Equine Herpesvirus 1&4	Horses on breeding farms or in contact with pregnant mares, horses younger than 5, and performance horses or those commingling with other equine populations.	Every six months, after an initial three-dose series at 4- to 6-week intervals.	Veterinarians recommend vaccinating pregnant mares during Months 5, 7, and 9 of gestation.
Equine Viral Arteritis	All stallions and breeding stock.	Annually.	Isolate vaccinated horses for three weeks to avoid virus shedding.



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Influenza (flu)	Horses younger than 5 and those in frequent contact with large numbers of horses.	Every six months, after an initial three-dose series at 4- to 6-week intervals.	Pregnant mares and foals require different vaccination schedules, so work with your veterinarian to vaccinate these classes.
Leptospirosis	Horses over 6 months of age.	Annually, after an initial two-dose series at three- to four-week intervals.	Safe for pregnant mares in their second trimester.
Potomac Horse Fever	Horses on farms or in geographic areas where PHF has been confirmed.	Every six to 12 months, depending on risk factors, after an initial two-dose series at 3- to 4-week intervals.	Time vaccination to precede the anticipated peak challenge period of summer and fall.
Rotaviral Diarrhea	Pregnant mares.	A three-dose series at Months 8, 9, and 10 of gestation.	
Snake Bite	Horses residing in or traveling to geographical areas where exposure risk to venomous snakes justifies usage.	Every six months, after an initial three-dose series at one-month intervals.	Have your veterinarian contact the vaccine manufacturer regarding use in pregnant mares and foals younger than 6 months.
Strangles	Horses on premises where strangles is endemic, and horses traveling and comingling with horses of unknown history.	Every six to 12 months, depending on risk factors, after an initial two-dose series at 3-week intervals.	Vaccination is not recommended during a strangles outbreak.

While vaccination helps reduce your horse's disease risk, it does not prevent disease in all circumstances and without accompanying management practices. Work with your veterinarian to customize a vaccination protocol for your horse.

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Boehringer Ingelheim | THE ART OF HORSE

**ALL THEY NEED
IN A VACCINE**

**NOTHING THEY
DON'T**

VETERA®
JUST WHAT MATTERS



Encephalomyelitis-Rhinopneumonitis-Influenza-West Nile Virus Vaccine
Eastern & Western, Killed Virus
Tetanus Toxoid

VETERA® Gold^{XP}
10 Doses/10 mL

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