

Infectious Disease Summary

In Britain it is estimated that less than 50% of horses are vaccinated against flu*.
To achieve an effective level of herd immunity against equine flu vaccination rates need to be 70%



Influenza is an airborne virus



Rest period needed after illness



Virus can spread up to 5km



Influenza

Influenza is an airborne virus and can spread quickly and easily through a yard. Under favourable weather conditions it can spread up to 5km.

Following a bout of flu it is important to give a horse complete rest, this can last for many weeks.



Contaminated wounds from soil



Risk of infection also in the field



Fatal in the majority of cases

Tetanus

Tetanus is an infectious disease of horses caused by contamination of a wound with soil containing the bacterium *Clostridium tetani*.

A horse doesn't need to leave its field to be at potential risk of tetanus

Unfortunately in the majority of cases of tetanus the disease proves to be fatal.



Strangles is widespread in the UK



Causes major economic problems



Outbreaks can last for months



Strangles

Strangles is endemic in the UK, as well as being unpleasant for the individual it also causes major economic problems particularly on big yards as established outbreaks may last for months, essentially shutting down stabling premises.

*Vaccination rates are based on the assumption of 850,000 horses in the UK in 2019.