

Routine Equine Fall Vaccinations and Prevention

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As we head from the summer heat into the brisk chill of fall, we remember that along with restarting school and fall lesson programs, it is time for your horse's semi-annual exam and vaccinations. Many horses are on a biannual vaccination program in the spring and fall months.

Determining which vaccines your horse(s) should receive is a common question we receive from horse owners. **Core** vaccines are defined as vaccinations that have proven efficacy with minimal risk for equine patients. These vaccines protect against disease that can be highly virulent/contagious, cause public health concerns, and/or have a risk to cause severe disease. The AAEP ([American Association of Equine Practitioners](#)) guidelines for core vaccinations recommend adult horses be vaccinated against the following:

- Tetanus
- Eastern/Western Equine Encephalomyelitis (EEE/WEE)
- West Nile Virus (WNV)
- Rabies Virus.

An additional vaccine that is recommended for our specific area is Potomac Horse Fever (PHF).

Additional vaccines may be recommended based on your horse's lifestyle. If your horse frequently goes off of your property or is in contact with horses that show, you may want to protect them against more communicable diseases. These include vaccines such as Equine Herpesvirus (EHV), Influenza, and Strangles (*Streptococcus equi*). If you have standing water on your property or feed your horse from a round bale, you may want to consider vaccinating against Botulism.

Finally, remember to check the date on your Coggins' (EIA) test! This must be done annually, and your horse cannot move off of your property without a current negative Coggins'. Plan ahead if you know you are going to a show or event off your property in order to receive your Coggins' in a stress-free and timely manner. Remember to always carry a copy of your horse's Coggins' test results with you. A good idea is to keep one in your truck or trailer.

In summary, there are many different appropriate vaccines schedules that can be tailored specifically for you and your horse(s). It is best to communicate with your veterinarian to help determine the best program for you. If you have any questions, your veterinarian will be happy to talk you through the pros and cons of each vaccine and the appropriate schedule.