



USEF VS Requirements FAQ

General USEF Licensed Competition August 2023 Requirements Questions

- 1) Do the August 2023 USEF Vesicular Stomatitis requirements apply to the VS Affected State or VS Affected County?
 - a) Effective September 1, 2023, the USEF VS Requirements and protocols will NO LONGER apply to a VS affected state, but rather a VS Affected County. This change was made after a review of environmental data and case data indicates limited and slow spread of virus in California over the last month.
- 2) What is the definition of a VS Affected County?
 - i) **VS Affected County** is a county which has had **multiple USDA vesicular stomatitis** confirmed or suspect premises **within the last 30 days**. See [USEF VS Webpage](#) for the most current list of the VS affected counties.
- 3) My show is next month, how do I know if the county of the event will have VS?
 - a) The VS status of the event or the horse will be determined 7 days prior to the start of the competition. Meaning the VS status of county of the event or the county of horse origin will be reflective of the status of the county on day 7 prior to the event start date.
- 4) What is the definition of a horse from a VS affected county for the purposes of USEF VS biosecurity Requirements?
 - i) A horse originating from a VS affected county is defined as a horse which has been in a VS affected county within the previous 14 days.
- 5) Where exactly are the premises with positive cases?
 - a) The state and USDA will only report at the county level to protect confidentiality of premises that could be singled out by more granular reporting. However, exactly where in the county the individual infected premises are located is almost irrelevant with VSV. The entire region of southern California is at high risk of VSV. It is the infected insects that move. Hence the emphasis of control is quarantining and restricting movement of lesioned animals and for all other horse owners to implement fly control and mitigation measures.
- 6) My veterinarian is recommending not attending any shows due to VS. Is a vet note, adequate for refund of entries.
 - a) Refunds are in accordance with the competition prize list. All inquiries regarding refunds should be directed to the competition management.
- 7) How long will this outbreak last?
 - a) As this is the first time in over 40 years that California has had a confirmed case of Vesicular Stomatitis, we have no knowledge or data to indicate the vector distribution and spread. Climate and vector distribution in California is unique and the models and experiences of previous outbreaks in the United States can't be utilized.
 - b) We anticipate the virus to continue to spread north in California and continue to be present likely through the fall.



Timed Official Certificate of Veterinary Inspection

1. Is competition management required to keep a copy of the certificate of veterinary inspection?
 - a. No. Competition management or their designee is required to review the CVI to verify issuance within 14 days of entry to the venue. No copy is required to be kept.
2. Is a VS Statement on letterhead from a veterinarian acceptable in lieu of a CVI?
 - a. No. Only an official state certificate of veterinary inspection issued by a licensed veterinarian shall be accepted.
3. What does a competition manager do if a horse arrives with VS statement and no official CVI?
 - a. There are two options.
 - i. The horse or shipment of horses shall be rejected and prohibited entry.
 - ii. The veterinarian performing the onsite inspections may choose to write the official CVI if they are able to attest to all requirements of the CVI.
4. A horse competed last week at a competition in a VS affected county and is coming directly to my competition in a VS affected county, can I accept the CVI issued for entry to the prior event?
 - a. CVI must be within 14 days of entry to the competition venue. If CVI was issued greater than 14 days prior, a new CVI is required for entry to your event.
5. If horses reside on my competition grounds for more than 14 days do they require a new CVI?
 - a. A timed CVI is only required for horses entering the event grounds. Horses which reside on the event grounds don't require additional CVIs after entry.
6. What is the definition of permanent resident horses.
 - a. Permanent resident horses are defined as those which have permanently resided on the competition venue grounds for at least the previous 14 days.
7. Do horses which reside permanently on the competition grounds require a CVI for entry to the competition?
 - a. Effective September 1, 2023, horses meeting the permanent resident horse definition will no longer require a CVI for entry. However, they WILL REQUIRE an arrival examination for lesions for entry into the competition area.
8. Can an owner health declaration be used in lieu of a CVI?
 - a. NO, a CVI issued by a licensed veterinarian within the 14 days prior to entry to the competition grounds is required.
9. Does a horse that leaves the competition venue for a couple days and returns require a new CVI?
 - a. Horses leaving and returning from a non-VS affected does not require a CVI.
 - b. If a horse has been gone from the venue for less than 14 days and has been in a VS affected county, no CVI will be required.
 - c. If a horse has been gone from the venue for more than 14 days and has been in a VS affected county, a new CVI will be required.





Required Onsite Arrival Examinations

- 1) What horses must be examined by a veterinarian or designated individual?
 - a) All horses entering competition area from a VS affected county are required to be examined including daily haul in horses and on-site permanent resident horses entering the competition grounds.
- 2) Are horses from unaffected counties in a VS affected state required to be examined?
 - a) No. Effective September 1, 2023, only horses from VS affected counties are required to be inspected.
- 3) When does the examination need to be done?
 - a) NO horse from a VS affected county shall enter competition grounds without examination. Thus, competition management is encouraged to designate arrival times for when a veterinarian or designated individual will be on site.
- 4) Where does the examination by veterinarian or trained technician need to occur?
 - a) Preferably on the trailer before off-loading if safe to do so. Otherwise, a designated safe area for offloading and examination before entering any portion of the competition area.
- 5) Who is authorized to conduct the arrival onsite examinations?
 - a) A veterinarian or a designated individual
- 6) What is a designated individual?
 - a) Designated Individual: An individual designated by the competition veterinarian OR an individual designated by the competition manager who has proof of completion of the USEF online [VS Educational module](#).
- 7) What does the examination need to include?
 - a) An examination of the individual horse included handling of the ears, inner mouth, tongue and the feeling around muzzle for evidence of blisters(vesicles) or erosions compatible with Vesicular Stomatitis.
 - b) Observations of the coronary bands, udder/sheath area if possible.
- 8) Does the temperature need to be taken by the veterinarian or designated individual upon arrival.
 - a) NO, a temperature is not required on arrival. But temperature log is required to be completed twice daily while horse originating from a VS affected county is on the premises.
- 9) What precautions should be taken during the examination?
 - a) A new pair of gloves should be used for each individual horse.
- 10) What happens if a lesion is detected?
 - a) The lesioned animal and any other horses on the shipment are rejected entry. Veterinarian must contact state animal health official AND Dr. Katie Flynn (kflynn@usef.org or 859-225-6991) with the name, contact information and the destination where the horses are being shipped back to.
 - b) Horses with lesions are prohibited from entering the premises.



Onsite Monitoring of Horses from VS Affected County

- 1) Are horses from VS Affected County required to be stabled separately from horses from non-affected counties?
 - a. It is not required but strongly recommended to stable horses from VS affected counties separately from horses from other states. This separation helps facilitate the required daily temperature log monitoring and observations by competition management. Additionally, the separation reduces the risk of potential exposure and spread of virus which may enter the event grounds from a horse incubating the virus.
- 2) What type of monitoring is required for horses from VS affected county?
 - a. A temperature log is required to be completed twice daily for horses from VS affected counties. Additionally, these horses should be observed daily for vesicular (blister-like) lesions. Any temperature over 101.5F or vesicular lesions shall be reported to the competition management/veterinarian.

Vesicular Stomatitis Response

- 1) Am I required to report horses with vesicular (blister-like) lesions?
 - a) Suspect cases with vesicular lesions are REQUIRED by law to be reported by any individual with knowledge. Failure to report is a violation of state and federal laws and regulatory action will be taken.
- 2) Who do I contact if I suspect a horse with vesicular lesions?
 - a) State or federal animal health officials are the first point of contact for any suspect cases of vesicular lesions. For contact information for state animal health official visit <https://www.usaha.org/saho>
 - b) If the suspected lesioned animal is on a USEF licensed competition ground, competition management must also report the USEF Equine Health and Biosecurity Veterinarian.
- 3) What happens if vesicular lesions are identified in a horse at a USEF competition?
 - a) The horse will be immediately isolated, and the State or federal animal health officials will be immediately contacted to determine how to proceed.
 - b) Based on the incubation time and the lesion eruption, the regulatory officials will investigate the case to determine where the horse was most likely exposed to the virus.



Vesicular Stomatitis Response (continued)

- 4) Will my horse be quarantined at show grounds? Will my show be quarantined?
 - a) State animal health officials will evaluate the situation to determine the most appropriate response.
 - b) Important to note, the required USEF biosecurity measures are intended to prevent introduction and spread and thereby reduce the risk of potential event grounds quarantine.
 - c) If the horse with lesions is deemed to be exposed at their home or previous premises, it is unlikely for the event grounds to be quarantined.
 - d) If there is evidence of virus exposure and spread on the event grounds, there is a possibility for the show grounds to be quarantined and no new horses allowed entry for 14 days or longer. Movement from quarantined show grounds to quarantined home premises will be at the discretion of the state animal health official.
- 5) Will shows be cancelled due to VS?
 - a) USEF continues to monitor the situation with state and federal animal health officials.
 - b) Historically, events have continued in states where VS has been confirmed. Additionally, in the last 50 years there have been no documented cases of vesicular stomatitis spread at an equestrian event.
 - c) As long as shows continue to implement required biosecurity measures and there is no evidence of virus spread at competitions, USEF will continue to support continuance of equestrian events.
 - d) If there is evidence of significant spread of virus spread at equestrian events or failure of implemented biosecurity measures, USEF may consider cancellation of events in VS affected area.

