

**MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF LIVESTOCK
ANIMAL HEALTH DIVISION
OFFICIAL ORDER NO. 25-02**

DATE: November 20, 2025

DATE EFFECTIVE: November 20, 2025

SUBJECT: **Import Restriction on Equines Entering the State of Montana Due to Outbreak of Equine Herpesvirus-1 (EHV-1) and Equine Herpes Myeloencephalopathy (EHM)**

STATUTORY AUTHORIZATION: Montana Code Annotated §§ 81-1-302, 81-2-102(1)(d), and 81-2-703.

ORDERED BY: Dr. Tahnee Szymanski, DVM
State Veterinarian
Animal Health Administrator

REVIEWED BY: Michael Honeycutt
Executive Officer
Montana Board of Livestock

ORDER

The Montana Department of Livestock (Department) is statutorily charged with exercising supervision to protect the livestock interests of the state from disease. Mont. Code Ann. § 81-1-102(1).

Multiple confirmed cases of Equine Herpesvirus-1 (EHV-1) and Equine Herpes Myeloencephalopathy (EHM) in horses associated with equine events in Texas and Oklahoma have been reported in those and other states. EVH-1 is a highly contagious virus spread through the respiratory secretions of infected animals. EVH-1 infection can lead to illness, abortions, stillbirths, and the often-fatal neurological disease Equine Herpes Myeloencephalopathy (EHM). The presence of an equine infected with EVH-1 in the state poses a high risk that it will spread the virus to other equines it comes into contact with.

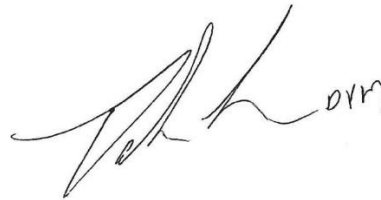
Accordingly, the Department's Animal Health Administrator/State Veterinarian has determined that circumstances exist constituting an imminent peril to equine health and welfare in the State of Montana and is issuing an emergency rule modifying import requirements for equines entering Montana. For purposes of this Order, "equines" means horses, mules, asses, and other members of the family Equidae.

Pursuant to Mont. Code Ann. § 81-2-102(1)(d), IT HEREBY ORDERED that:

1. All equines entering Montana must be traveling on a certificate of veterinary inspection (CVI) issued no earlier than seventy-two (72) hours prior to travel into Montana. *See* Mont. Code Ann. § 81-2-703(2). This 72-hour restriction also applies to equines who are issued a CVI in Montana to travel out-of-state and are returning to Montana on the same CVI. This Order modifies and supersedes the CVI requirements of Admin. R. Mont. 32.3.206.
2. Equines that may have been exposed to EHV-1 within the fourteen (14) days prior to CVI inspection are not eligible for importation into Montana until this Order is lifted. Mont. Code Ann. § 81-2-703(1); Admin. R. Mont. 32.3.203.
3. Equines that are exhibiting any clinical signs consistent with EHV-1 or EHM, including a fever, are not eligible for importation into Montana until this Order is lifted. Mont. Code Ann. § 81-2-703(1); Admin. R. Mont. 32.3.203.
4. All other importation requirements for equines eligible for entry into Montana pursuant to this Order remain in place.
5. This Order is effectively immediately.

This Order may last no longer than five (5) years and is subject to review, modification, or annulment by the Board of Livestock. Mont. Code Ann. §§ 81-2-102(2) and 81-1-302. The Board of Livestock's next regularly scheduled meeting is set for December 17, 2025. Official meeting information, including the agenda and public participation opportunities, will be available at <https://liv.mt.gov/Board-of-Livestock/index> when it becomes available.

DR. TAHNEE SZYMANSKI, DVM

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tahnee Szymanski DVM', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Montana Department of Livestock
State Veterinarian and Animal Health Administrator