



Dear Veterinary Surgeon,

The following correspondence has recently been sent to all licensed trainers and point to point handlers regarding changes to vaccination intervals under Rule 91 of the Rules of Racing and Irish National Hunt Steeplechase Rules. We are extending this communication to Veterinary Surgeons as we recognise that you are at the forefront of appropriate vaccination administration.

As you may well be aware, Rule 91 which concerns the time intervals for Equine Influenza vaccination came into effect in Ireland and Great Britain on 1st January 2022. This change was implemented in a bid to minimise the recognised waning in immunity between vaccinations.

The new time intervals are as follows:

	CURRENT INTERVAL	INTERVAL FROM 1 JANUARY 2022
V1 - V2	21 – 92 days	21 – 60 days
V2 - V3	150 – 215 days	120 – 180 days
BOOSTER	Not more than 1 year apart	Not more than six months apart

This Rule change effectively splits horses into two different categories in 2022:

1. Horses which have had their first vaccination on or before 31/12/21

Horses which have had at least a V1 (and don't have to restart for any reason) on or before 31/12/21 can remain on the old intervals but as of 01/01/23 must have had a vaccination within the previous six months to be qualified to run.

2. Horses which haven't had a V1 before 01/01/2022

Horses which haven't had a V1 before 01/01/22 and any previous course of vaccinations have expired, must be vaccinated according to the Interval from 1 January 2022 noted above.

In point 2 above, if the horse is not correctly vaccinated according to the new intervals then it will not be qualified to run in 2022 until it is correctly vaccinated in accordance with the new intervals.

Example 1: Two horses are entered to run in a race on the 15th April 2022, each horse has two flu vaccinations certified on their passports and uploaded to the Weatherbys ePassport App:

Horse A:

V1 31/12/21

V2 31/03/22 - *Interval between V1 and V2 is 90 days, horse qualified to run as V1 before 01/01/22 and old intervals (21 to 92 days) still apply*





Horse B:

V1 01/01/22

V2 31/03/22 - *Interval between V1 and V2 is 89 days, interval is less than Horse A above, but this horse is not qualified to run as V1 is in 2022 and interval between V1 and V2 does not conform to new interval of 21-60 days.*

Example 2: Two horses are entered to run in a race on 15th November 2022, each horse has three flu vaccinations certified on their passports and uploaded to the Weatherbys ePassport App:

Horse A:

V1 31/12/21

V2 31/03/22

V3 31/10/22 - *Interval between V2 and V3 is 214 days, horse qualified to run as V1 before 01/01/22 and old intervals (150 to 215 days) still apply*

Horse B:

V1 01/01/22

V2 01/03/22

V3 01/09/22 – *Interval between V2 and V3 is 184 days, horse not qualified to run as V1 is on 01/01/2022 and the interval between V2 and V3 does not conform to the new interval of 120 – 180 days*

Example 3: A horse which has had three vaccinations in 2022 certified on its passport and uploaded to the Weatherbys ePassport App is entered to run in a race on 15th December 2022

V1 01/01/22

V2 01/02/22

V3 01/06/22 – *Horse not qualified to run as V1 is on 01/01/2022 and Interval between V3 and raceday (15th December) is greater than six months*

Please note that Booster vaccinations should be administered no more than six months apart, according to calendar months rather than a fixed number of days. For example, a horse that is fully vaccinated on 1st March 2022 would require a booster on or before 1st September 2022. Examples of potential month end scenarios for consideration are included in the table overleaf.





V3 or booster administered on	To consider when calculating 6 monthly (or less) intervals	Booster to be administered on or before
December 31 st	No June 31 st	June 30 th
January 31 st		July 31 st
February 28 th		August 28 th
February 29 th	Leap Year	August 29 th
March 31 st	No September 31 st	September 30 th
April 30 th		October 30 th
May 31 st	No November 31 st	November 30 th
June 30 th		December 30 th
July 31 st		January 31 st
August 28 th		February 28 th
August 29 th -31 st	Non-Leap Year, no Feb 29 th - 31 st	February 28 th
August 29 th	Leap Year	February 29 th
August 30 th -31 st	Leap Year, no Feb 30 th - 31 st	February 29 th
September 30 th		March 30 th
October 31 st	No April 31 st	April 30 th
November 30 th		May 30 th

If you have any queries with regard to the new vaccination intervals, please contact equine@ihrb.ie or call Aileen Sloan Lee (087 4077904) Monday – Friday between 9am – 5pm.

Yours sincerely,

IHRB Veterinary Team

