

## Equine Influenza (EI) Vaccine Shortages: IHRB Update – 15/09/22

The IHRB would like to clarify, following monitoring and careful consideration over the last few weeks of the evolving situation in relation to this, that there will be **no change to the EI vaccination schedules or planned changes due to take place in 2023 in order for horses to remain compliant with the Rules of Racing In Ireland.**

This will remain under review: in the event that the Proteq vaccines currently in short supply in Britain do not come back on stream as expected next month, further steps will be considered.

Vaccination is required to keep the Irish Thoroughbred herd protected from EI which, whilst it does not often cause serious illness in individual animals, can significantly impact days lost in training and racing and threaten horse movement – see <https://www.ihrb.ie/equine-influenza> for more detail. On the basis of expert international scientific consensus, changes to the EI vaccination schedule were agreed in 2021 and are being implemented in a transitional phase in 2022, ready for 2023 in all our Thoroughbreds including point to point horses. There are key changes to the intervals between the first, second and third vaccinations of the primary course (V1, V2 and V3) with subsequent boosters needed within 6 months of the last vaccination.

For now, to maintain our herd protection, we will continue to require that horses who started on the 'old' intervals with V1 in 2021 continue on the old intervals including a booster 12 months after V3 and that horses who started on the 'new' intervals with a V1 in 2022 continue on these, including a booster 6 months after their V3. All horses, come 1.1.23, must have had a vaccination within 6 months of 1.1.23, i.e. since 1.7.22.

Note that in the face of differing supply pressures in Britain, the BHA has relaxed its requirement only whilst this specific issue persists, for horses on the 'new' intervals to needing a 12-month rather than 6-month booster whilst still recommending that it be done at 6 months if possible. Their requirement that horses have a vaccination within 6 months of 1.1.23 remains as for the IHRB.

Please contact [equine@ihrb.ie](mailto:equine@ihrb.ie) if you have any queries about this.