

## Canadian Equine Sector Disease Surveillance Update, April 2024

Provided by: Dr. Doris Leung, Director, Canadian Animal Health Surveillance System (CAHSS)

The Canadian Animal Health Surveillance System ([www.cahss.ca](http://www.cahss.ca)) is a division of Animal Health Canada and brings together and uses data-driven information to demonstrate animal health, minimize impacts of disease, and guide planning on national animal health priorities. CAHSS has 9 species specific networks and 2 special topics networks.

The CAHSS equine network purpose statement is: “An effective equine surveillance system is essential to protect the health and well-being of horses and humans, safeguard the viability of the Canadian herd, ensure movement of horses and continuance of trade, and enhance the prosperity of the Canadian equine industry.”

### For 2023/2024, key initiatives in the CAHSS Equine Network included:

- Maintaining, in partnership with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, an up-to-date [Equine Diseases Dashboard](#) for regulated diseases (EIA, WNV, EEE, WEE).
- Maintaining an enhanced [Disease Alert system](#), which allows for real-time notification sent to subscriber’s emails and is also displayed within the CAHSS website.
- Hosting quarterly equine network information sharing meetings for equine stakeholders in industry, academia, and federal and provincial government.
- Organizing working group meetings to gather information on estimating national horse populations for a research project in partnership with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, to assess West Nile Virus vaccination coverage across Canada.
- Hosting one national [Cross-Canada Check in on Strangle for Veterinarians and Veterinary Staff](#), with keynote Dr. Ashley Boyle and panelists from the equine network including Drs. Barbara Wilhelm, Ashley Whitehead, Alison Moore, Martin Rondeau, and Kathleen MacMillan.

### Disease Summary January 2023-April 2024<sup>1</sup>

Disease	Cases <sup>2</sup> reported via CAHSS
Equine infectious anemia	17 cases, 11 newly affected premises
Eastern equine encephalitis	22 cases
Western equine encephalitis	0 cases
West Nile in horses	48 cases
Equine influenza <sup>3</sup>	8 cases
Equine herpesvirus (EHV-1) <sup>3</sup>	19 cases
Strangles <sup>3</sup>	34 cases
Anaplasma <sup>3</sup>	0 cases

<sup>1</sup> All disease counts are considered unofficial. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency remains the agency responsible for official reporting on federally regulated diseases, and provincial and territorial governments remain the agencies responsible for official reporting on provincial and territorial regulated diseases.

<sup>2</sup> Cases may include one individual, or multiple epidemiologically linked individuals on a single premises or on multiple premises.

<sup>3</sup> For non-federally regulated diseases, case reporting differs across provinces and territories, as well as equine sectors. As such, absence of reported cases should not be taken to mean no disease occurred.