



Carbapenem-resistant *Enterobacterales* Information for Horse Owners



What is carbapenem-resistant *Enterobacterales* (CRE)?

- Carbapenems are antibiotics that are reserved for resistant infections.
- CRE is a group of bacteria (e.g., *E. coli*, *Klebsiella*) that can cause severe infections in pets and people and is resistant to carbapenems and other antibiotics, making them challenging to treat.

Where did my horse get this bacteria?

- *Enterobacterales* can live in the gastrointestinal of healthy people and horses without causing any signs of illness; this is called colonization.
- Antibiotic resistance is shared among bacteria in the gastrointestinal tract.
- When CRE spreads to other body sites (such as the lungs, urinary tract or wounds), horses can develop infections and become sick.
- CRE can be spread through feces, fluids, hands, and contaminated surfaces.

Can CRE spread to my other horses and family?

- It is possible to share CRE between animals and people, but the risk is considered low.
- Immunosuppressed family members should avoid contact with CRE-infected horses during treatment.
- Everyone can reduce spread by washing hands.
- Anyone concerned about CRE exposure or illness should consult their healthcare provider.

How can we treat my horse?

- Infected horses are treated with antibiotics.
- Follow your veterinarian's guidance exactly for antibiotic treatment and follow-up care.
- Horses who are colonized with CRE without showing signs of illness do not need to be treated.

General precautions

- While your horse is being treated, minimize its contact with other animals and people.
- Keep infected wounds covered and wear gloves to change bandages.
- Clean and disinfect common areas, wash racks or tack stalls after use, and do not use pressured water to clean as bacteria might become airborne.
- Follow the manufacturer guidelines when using cleaning products.
- Wash your hands after feeding, petting, or cleaning up after your horse
- Wash your hands and face and change your clothes if your horse snorts on you.

Where can I find more information?

- Kansas Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory
(785) 532-5650 <http://www.ksvdl.org/>
- MU Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory
(573) 882-8367 <https://vmdl.missouri.edu/>
- [CDC CRE and Animal Basics](#)

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