



Equine Herpes Virus Outbreak in Europe

Why in News

Recently, there has been an outbreak of **Equine Herpes Virus (EHV-1) among horses in Europe.**

- So far seven countries have confirmed EHV-1 cases: Spain, Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Sweden and Qatar.

Key Points

▪ About Equine Herpes Virus (EHV):

- Equine Herpes Virus is a common **DNA virus** that occurs in horse populations worldwide.
- EHV is a family of viruses which are named by numbers such as **EHV 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5.**

- There are more viruses in this family, but **EHV 1, 3, and 4 pose the most serious health risks for domestic horses.**

◦ Health Risks:

- **EHV1** can cause manifestations of disease in horses, including **respiratory disease, abortion and neonatal death.**
- This strain can also cause **neurological problems**, leading to **paralysis** and in some cases, **death.** Horses that contract this virus can develop a **lack of coordination, weakness, loss of appetite and are unable to stand.**

▪ Spread of EHV-1 Virus:

- It is **contagious** and spread by **direct horse-to-horse contact** via the respiratory tract through nasal secretions.
- This virus can **also be spread indirectly** through **contact with physical objects** that are contaminated with the virus.

▪ Equine Herpesvirus Myeloencephalopathy (EHM) is another name for the neurologic disease associated with Equine Herpes Virus (EHV) infections.

▪ Precautions and Treatment:

- As the infection has a high transmission rate, **keeping a diseased horse in isolation** is required.
- Treatments may include **anti-inflammatory drugs.**

Source:IE