

2025 Vesicular Stomatitis Guidance for Veterinarians

Report all suspect VSV cases to the State Veterinarian's Office at
303-869-9130

NON-EQUINE CASES: All suspected VSV in non-equine cases (cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, camelids) *must be investigated by state or federal animal health officials.*

EQUINE CASES:

1. **Report:** Report all cases that have clinical signs suggestive of VSV to the State Veterinarian's Office at 303-869-9130. Reporting cases as quickly as possible will benefit your client and is the best way to reduce the negative implications to other owners. When you call to report, you will be given a case investigation number that must be included on the lab submission form to CSU.
2. **Hold Order:** If you suspect VSV, inform the owners that they are under a Hold Order which means that livestock cannot leave the premises until testing is done and the State Veterinarian releases the Hold Order. Once we receive the report, we will email a hold order to the owner. Call our office if you have any questions on the restriction of livestock movement into and out of that facility.
3. **Lab Submission:** Colorado State University Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (CSU VDL) in Fort Collins has been activated to receive and test samples for equine species only with VSV compatible clinical signs from accredited veterinarians.
 - a. The case investigation number from the State Veterinarian's Office must be included on the lab submission form. Here is a link to the [General Sample Submission Form](#).
 - b. Read the [Submission Information Details page](#) for more detailed information about submitting samples and the [Sample Shipping Information](#) page for specifics on shipping substances.

4. **Sampling:** When sampling a horse for vesicular stomatitis, you must obtain a minimum of two samples:
- a. Serum (for complement fixation) - at least 2mL, preferably separated from the clot and submitted in a red-top or other sterile tube
 - i. Note: CF test can be negatively impacted if serum is not separated from the clot
 - b. Sterile swab (for PCR) - (Dacron/polyester with a plastic shaft) of lesions placed in a screw-cap or other sterile tube with a maximum of 3mL TBTB media or sterile saline. Make sure tube lid is secured so fluid does not leak out of the tube. Do not use wooden shafted swabs as they contain PCR inhibitors and cannot be accepted.
 - a. Additional samples to the swab may include:
 - i. Vesicular tissue (epithelium) placed in a screw-cap tube with TBTB media
 - ii. Vesicular fluid (from unruptured vesicles) placed in a screw-cap tube.
5. **Supplies:** TBTB media will be made available to accredited veterinarians for sample collection for VSV cases. Please contact one of the following:
- 1. CDA Animal Health Laboratory
300 S Technology Ct, Broomfield, CO 80021
(303)869-9230
 - 2. Colorado State University Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratories
Fort Collins: 2450 Gillette Drive, Fort Collins, CO 80526 Ph. (970)297-1281
Rocky Ford: 27847 Road 21, Rocky Ford, CO 81067
Grand Junction: 425 29 Road, Grand Junction, CO 81504
 - 3. The State or Federal [field veterinarian in your area](#)

Health Certificates

Colorado veterinarians and livestock owners should contact the state of destination when moving livestock interstate to ensure that all import requirements are met. States may impose certain restrictions for horses and livestock coming from VSV affected states. Visit this [website](#) for a list of contact information for all state veterinarians' offices.

If the destination state requires you to certify that the livestock do not originate within a specified distance of a VSV-quarantined premises (for example a 10 mile circle), call our office at 303-869-9130. One of our staff can map the location of your client and the location of the nearest quarantine so you can ensure they meet the destination state requirements.

