

7th October 2021

Note to Trainers and Handlers – Changes to Equine Influenza vaccination intervals/Rule 91

The Irish Horseracing Regulatory Board have today confirmed that changes to the primary course and booster schedule for Equine Influenza (EI) will come into effect on 1st January 2022 following previous approval from the European Horseracing Scientific Liaison Committee (EHSLC).

Following consultation with experts in Equine Influenza from Ireland, Great Britain, France, EHSLC members and Trainers' representative bodies, the EHSLC Board approved changes to the primary course and booster schedule for EI in December 2019 with the objective to harmonise the policy across Europe. These changes, which were due to come into effect from January 2021 in line with the British Horseracing Authority and France Galop, were subsequently delayed due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The IHRB and BHA have this week confirmed amendments to their rules from 1st January 2022 with this lead in time intended to give Trainers and Handlers to make the change with as little disruption to their racing plans as possible. These changes were implemented in France and Germany since 5th May 2021.

From 1st January 2022, the primary course and booster schedule for Equine Influenza (EI) vaccinations will be amended as follows:

	CURRENT INTERVAL	INTERVAL FROM 1 JANUARY 2022
V1 - V2	21 – 92 days	21 – 60 days
V2 - V3	150 – 215 days	120 – 180 days
BOOSTER	Not more than 1 year apart	Not more than six months apart

Further details of how this staged approach with the prolonged lead-in will work are given below.

Primary course intervals

- Primary course intervals are only required for horses that have not yet been administered a primary course or are required to re-start a new primary course.
- Horses that have a compliant primary course and compliant subsequent boosters up to and including 31st December 2021 **do not** have to re-start the vaccination process.
- Horses starting a new primary course up to and including 31st December 2021 should continue with the current intervals, even if V2 and V3 are administered in 2022.
- Horses starting a primary course from 1st January 2022 must comply with the new intervals.

Six-monthly boosters

- Boosters should be administered no more than six months apart, according to calendar months rather than a fixed number of days. For example, a horse that is fully vaccinated on 1st January would require a booster on or before 1st
- We ask that trainers move to the new vaccination schedule as soon as practicable. However, to help trainers implement the changes with minimal disruption to training, horses should be fully compliant with the new requirements by 1st January 2023.
- To be clear: all horses must have a compliant vaccination record by 1st January 2023 (i.e.) all horses must have been administered a booster within six months of 1st January 2023.
 - Horses which are due an annual booster between 1st January 2022 – 30th June 2022 will require a booster vaccination between 1st July 2022 – 31st December 2022 in order to be compliant by 1st January 2023.
 - Horses which are due an annual booster between 1st July 2022 – 31st December 2022 will be compliant by 1st January 2023.
 - **NB** horses which are vaccinated on 1st July 2022 will be due their next booster on or before 1st January 2023.
- As under the existing Rules, there is no minimum interval for boosters.
- Horses which do not have a compliant vaccination record as of 1st January 2023 will be required to re-start. Horses which have an interval of over six months between boosters will be required to re-start.