



VACCINATIONS FOR FOALS

****ALL VACCINATION PROGRAMS SHOULD BE DEVELOPED IN CONSULTATION WITH A LICENSED VETERINARIAN****

The two categories below reflect differences in the foal's susceptibility to disease and ability to mount an appropriate immune response to vaccination based on the presence (or absence) of maternal antibodies derived from colostrum. The phenomenon of maternal antibody interference is discussed in the text portion of these guidelines.

Note: Vaccines are listed in this table in alphabetical order, not in order of priority for use.

CORE VACCINATIONS protect against diseases that are endemic to a region, are virulent/highly contagious, pose a risk of severe disease, those having potential public health significance, and/or are required by law. Core vaccines have clearly demonstrable efficacy and safety, with a high enough level of patient benefit and low enough level of risk to justify their use in all equids.

Disease	Foals and Weanlings (<12 months of age) <i>of mares vaccinated in the prepartum period against the disease indicated</i>	Foals and Weanlings (<12 months of age) <i>of unvaccinated mare or lacking vaccination history</i>	Comments
Eastern / Western Equine Encephalo-myelitis (EEE/WEE)	3-dose series: 1st dose at 4 to 6 months of age 2nd dose 4 to 6 weeks after the 1st dose 3rd dose at 10 to 12 months of age Annual revaccination	3-dose series: 1st dose at 4 to 6 months of age 2nd dose 4 to 6 weeks after the 1st dose 3rd dose at 10 to 12 months of age Annual revaccination	* <i>Foals in the Southeastern USA</i> : The primary vaccination series can be initiated with an additional dose at 2 to 3 months of age due to early seasonal vector presence. *Consider 6-month revaccination interval for horses residing in endemic regions with extended vector seasons.
Rabies	2-dose series: 1st dose at 4 to 6 months of age (refer to manufacturer label guidelines) 2nd dose 4 to 6 weeks after 1st dose Annual revaccination	1-dose 1st dose at 4 to 6 months of age (refer to manufacturer label guidelines) Annual revaccination	The recommendation for a 2-dose initial series in foals from mares vaccinated with rabies within the year prior to foaling is to address the potential for maternal antibody interference. Rabies products are efficacious for at least 12 months based on efficacy studies with naive foals.
Tetanus	3-dose series: 1st dose at 4 to 6 months of age 2nd dose 4 to 6 weeks after the 1st dose 3rd dose at 10 to 12 months of age Annual Revaccination	3-dose series: 1st dose at 3 to 4 months of age 2nd dose 4 to 6 weeks after the 1st dose 3rd dose 10 to 12 months of age Annual Revaccination	
West Nile Virus (WNV)	3-dose series: 1st dose at 4 to 6 months of age 2nd dose 4 to 6 weeks after the 1st dose 3rd dose at 10 to 12 months of age Annual revaccination	3-dose series: 1st dose at 4 to 6 months of age 2nd dose 4 to 6 weeks after the 1st dose 3rd dose at 10 to 12 months of age Annual Revaccination	* <i>Foals in the Southeastern USA</i> : The primary vaccination series can be initiated with an additional dose at 2 to 3 months of age due to early seasonal vector presence. *Consider 6-month revaccination interval for horses residing in endemic regions with extended vector seasons

RISK-BASED VACCINES are selected for use based on risk assessment performed by, or in consultation with, a licensed veterinarian. Use of these vaccines may vary between individuals, populations, and/or geographic regions. Refer to “*Principles of Vaccination*” for criteria used in for risk assessment.

Disease	Foals and Weanlings (<12 months of age) <i>of mares vaccinated in the prepartum period against the disease indicated</i>	Foals and Weanlings (<12 months of age) <i>of unvaccinated mare or lacking vaccination history</i>	Comments
Anthrax	Not applicable. Not recommended to vaccinate mares during pregnancy, thus, there will be no foals of mares vaccinated prepartum	No age specific guidelines are available for this vaccine. Manufacturer’s recommendation is for primary series of 2 doses administered subcutaneously at a 2 to 3-week interval.	Antimicrobial drugs must not be given concurrently with this vaccine. Caution should be used during storage, handling, and administration of this live bacterial product. Consult a physician immediately should accidental human exposure (via mucus membranes, conjunctiva, or broken skin) occur.
Botulism (<i>Clostridium botulinum</i>)	3-dose series: 1st dose 2 to 3 months of age 2nd dose 4 weeks after 1st dose 3rd dose 4 weeks after 2nd dose	3-dose series: 1st dose 1 to 3 months of age 2nd dose 4 weeks after 1st dose 3rd dose 4 weeks after 2nd dose	Maternal antibody does not interfere with vaccination; foals at high risk may be vaccinated as early as 2 weeks of age.
Equine Herpesvirus (EHV-1 and EHV-4)	<i>Inactivated or modified live vaccine</i> 3-dose series: 1st dose 4 to 6 months of age 2nd dose 4 to 6 weeks after 1st dose 3rd dose at 10 to 12 months of age Revaccinate at 6-month intervals	<i>Inactivated or modified live vaccine</i> 3-dose series: 1st dose at 4 to 6 months of age 2nd dose 4 to 6 weeks after 1st dose 3rd dose at 10 to 12 months of age Revaccinate at 6-month intervals	
Equine Viral Arteritis (EVA)	Colt (male) foals: Single dose at 6 to 12 months of age (see comments) Annual revaccination	Colt (male) foals: Single dose at 6 to 2 months of age (see comments) Annual revaccination	Prior to initial vaccination, colt (male) foals should undergo serologic testing and be confirmed negative for antibodies to EAV. Testing should be performed shortly prior to, or preferably at, the time of vaccination. As foals can carry colostral derived antibodies to EAV for up to 6 months, testing and vaccination should not be performed prior to 6 months of age.

RISK-BASED VACCINATIONS Continued

Disease	Foals and Weanlings (<12 months of age) <i>of mares vaccinated in the prepartum period against the disease indicated</i>	Foals and Weanlings (<12 months of age) <i>of unvaccinated mare or lacking vaccination history</i>	Comments
Equine Influenza	<u>Inactivated vaccine</u> 2 or 3-dose series: Dependent upon the manufacturer's product recommendation, the vaccine is an initial two or three dose series with a 3 to 4-week interval between doses (IM) starting at 4-6 months of age. <u>Modified live vaccine</u> Administer a single dose (IN) in foals 11 months of age or older Revaccinate at 6-12month intervals based on risk	<u>Inactivated vaccine</u> 2 or 3-dose series: Dependent upon the manufacturer's product recommendation, the vaccine is an initial two or three dose series with a 3 to 4-week interval between doses (IM) starting at 4-6 months of age. <u>Modified live vaccine</u> Administer a single dose (IN) in foals 11 months of age or older Revaccinate at 6-12month intervals based on risk	An increased risk of disease may warrant vaccination of younger foals. Because some maternal anti-influenza antibody is likely to be present, a complete series of primary vaccinations should still be given after 6 months of age.
Leptospirosis	2 dose series: 1st dose at 6 months of age 2nd dose 3 to 4 weeks after 1st dose Annual revaccination	2 dose series: 1st dose at 6 months of age 2nd dose 3 to 4 weeks after 1st dose Annual revaccination	Safety has been demonstrated in foals 3 months of age. The effects of circulating maternal antibody and vaccination have not been determined.
Potomac Horse Fever <i>(Neorickettsia risticii)</i>	2-dose series: 1st dose at 5 months of age 2nd dose 3 to 4 weeks after 1st dose	2-dose series: 1st dose at 5 months of age 2nd dose 3 to 4 weeks after 1st dose	If risk warrants, vaccine may be administered to younger foals. Subsequent doses are to be administered at 4-week intervals until 6 months of age.
Snake Bite	Please see guidelines for additional information	Please see guidelines for additional information	

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Strangles <i>(Streptococcus equi)</i>	<p><i>Killed vaccine</i> 3-dose series, administered parentally at 3-week intervals: 1st dose at 4 - 6 months of age 2nd dose 3 weeks after 1st dose 3rd dose 3 weeks after 2nd dose</p> <p>Annual revaccination or prior to anticipated exposure is recommended.</p> <p><u>Modified live vaccine</u> 2-dose series, administered intranasally at 2-3 week intervals: 1st dose at 9 months of age 2nd dose 2 to 3 weeks after 1st dose</p> <p>Annual revaccination is recommended</p>	<p><i>Killed vaccine</i> 3-dose series, administered parentally at 3-week intervals: 1st dose at 4 to 6 months of age 2nd dose 3 weeks after 1st dose 3rd dose 3 weeks after 2nd dose</p> <p>Annual revaccination or prior to anticipated exposure is recommended.</p> <p><u>Modified live vaccine</u> 2-dose series, administered intranasally at 2 to 3 week intervals: 1st dose at 9 months of age 2nd dose 2 to 3 weeks after 1st dose</p> <p>Annual revaccination is recommended.</p>	<p>Vaccination is not recommended as a strategy in outbreak mitigation.</p> <p>In high risk situations, the vaccines may be administered to younger animals. Consultation with the vaccine manufacturer is recommended.</p>

Vaccinations for Foals were developed by the American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP) Infectious Disease Committee. These guidelines and charts were reviewed and updated by the committee & Vaccination Guidelines Subcommittee and approved by the Board of Directors in 2023.

Please note that updates to these guidelines and charts may occur online at any time and should always be referenced there for the most current version at www.aaep.org.