

# African horse sickness

OIE Guidelines on preparedness and implementation of emergency vaccination in the Asian region



 WORLD ORGANISATION FOR ANIMAL HEALTH  
*Protecting animals, preserving our future*



**Susanne Münstermann**  
Animal Health Consultant

## African Horse Sickness

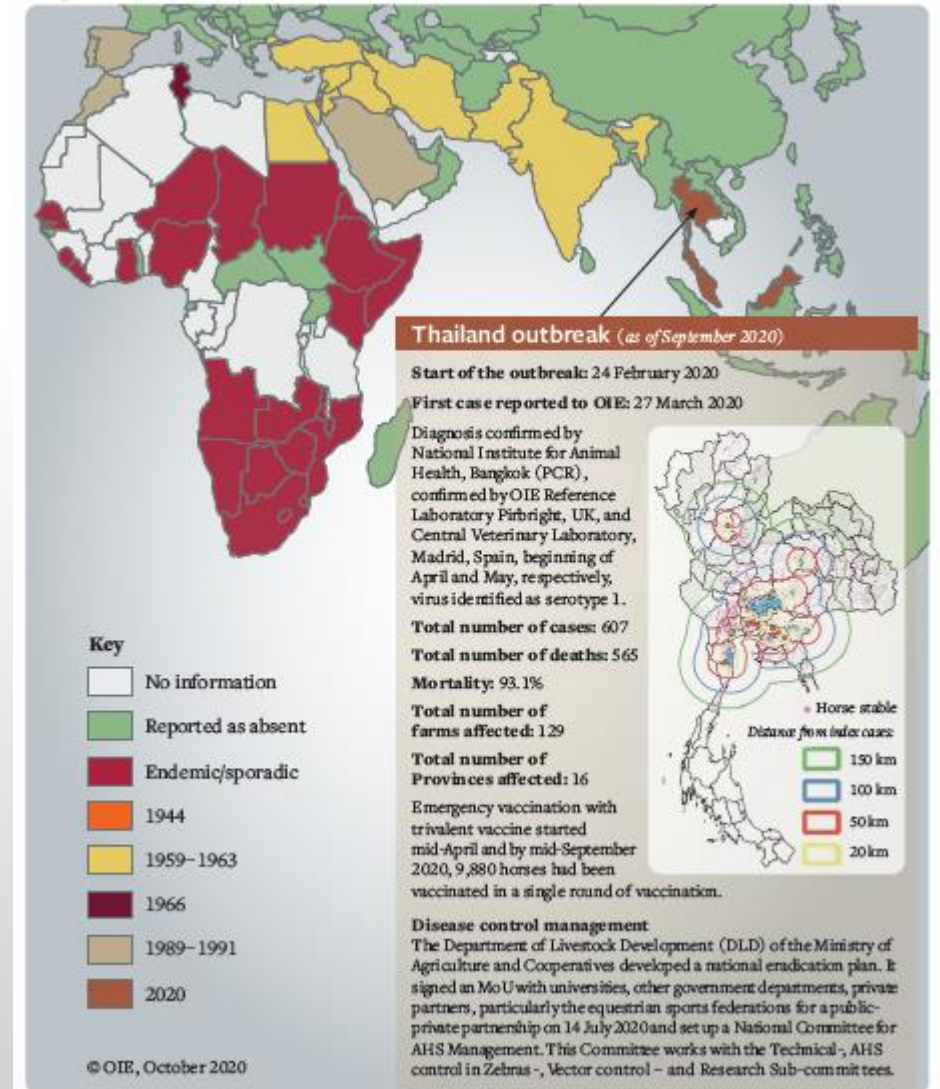
### OIE Guidelines on preparedness and implementation of emergency vaccination in the Asian region

African horse sickness coordination meeting for Asia  
Virtual, 10 & 17 November 2020

# Background

AHS was a new disease to Asia and the OIE wished to provide guidance to the already affected countries and those that are at risk of being affected.

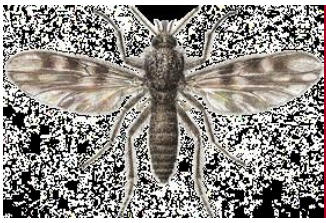
- Short document (25 pages text)
- Practical
- Illustrated
- Useful references



# Components of the Guidelines

- Introduction
- Preparedness for emergency vaccination
- Preparing and implementing emergency vaccination
- Monitoring and evaluation of the response to an epidemic
- Conclusions





# Introduction

- Covers the **disease**, its **transmission** and **geographical distribution**
- Does not go into great detail on the disease, as there are plenty of good textbooks on AHS, also OIE factsheets and OIE has also developed good communication material, available on its website

**BUT** while in endemic countries *Culicoides imicola* is the main vector of AHS, this is not known in Asia!

## Recommendation:

- Carry out vector surveillance and try to identify which vectors are involved
- Meanwhile consider any biting insect associated with horses as potential vectors

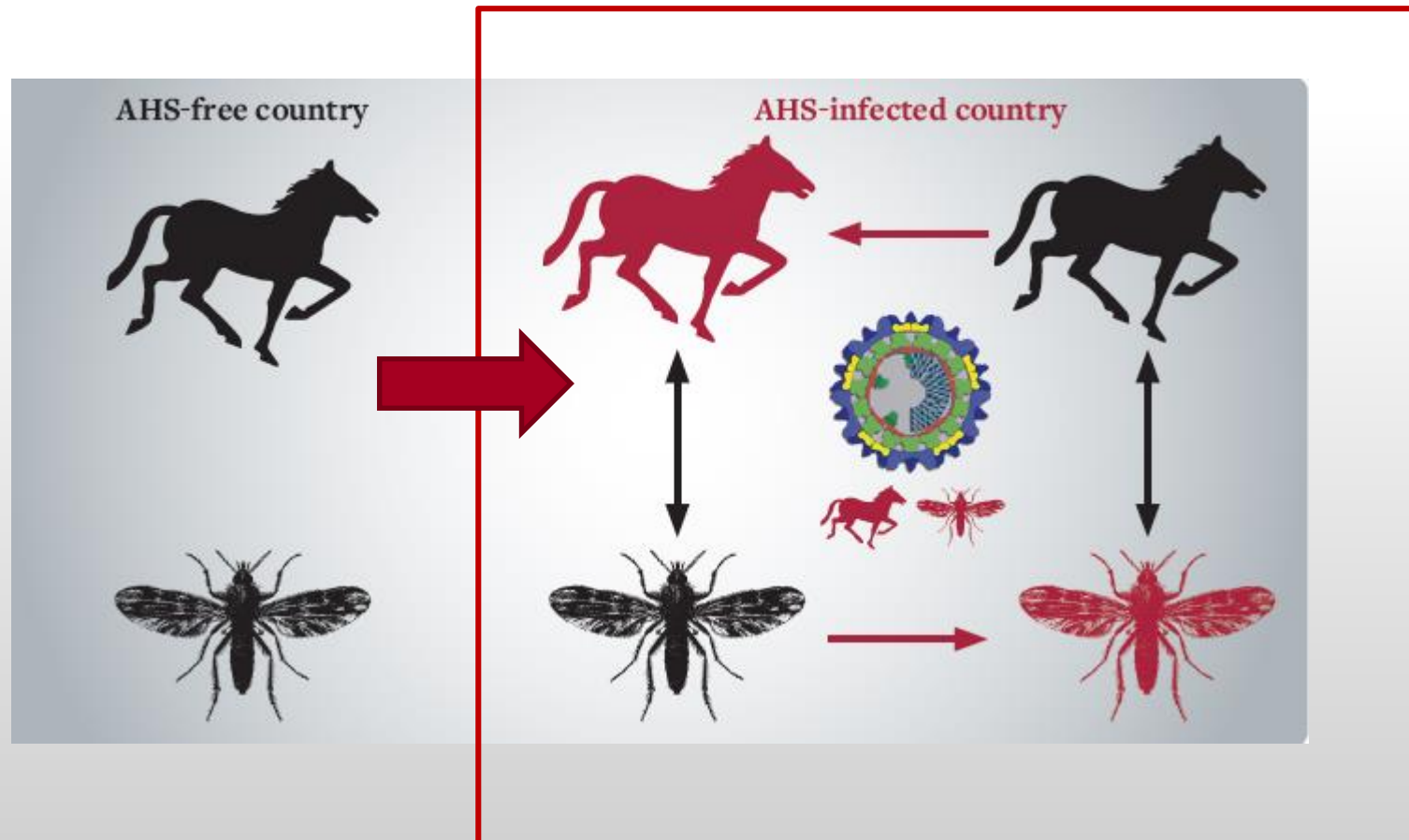


# Preparedness for emergency vaccination

- While the main emphasis of these Guidelines is on **emergency vaccination**, other factors need to be considered and should be checked while a country is still at risk but had no outbreak of AHS yet:
  - **Veterinary Services:** awareness, knowledge and skills to deal with AHS
  - **Laboratory:** capacity to diagnose and test surveillance samples
  - **Legislation:** AHS as notifiable disease and legal backing to fight it
  - **Animal identification:** does it include all equids
  - **Surveillance:** what is appropriate to detect AHS
  - **Disease investigation:** how to do it
  - **Public awareness and communication:** prepare communities in time
  - **Contingency and funding:** fighting the disease is costly, assure funds are available



# An outbreak of AHS occurs!!

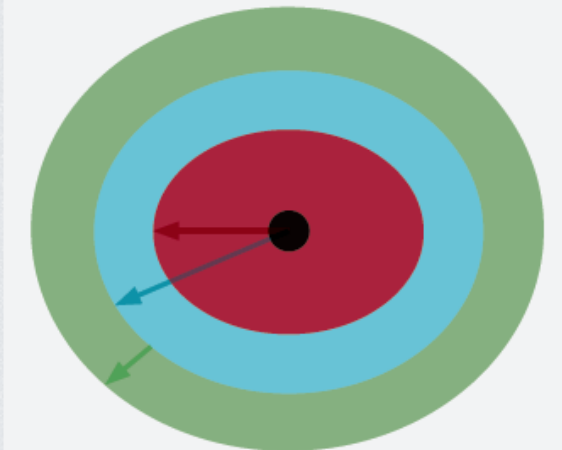


# Preparing and implementing emergency vaccination

## - activities before vaccination -

- **Stop the spread of the disease:** guidance through the emergency measures to be taken after disease is suspected and a preliminary diagnosis is indicative of AHS.
  - Quarantine
  - Epidemiological timeline
  - Tracing of in-contact equids
  - Movement restrictions
  - Extend of the outbreak
  - Emergency communication
- **Parallel activities:**
  - Laboratory diagnosis and identification of the virus
  - Reporting of outbreak to OIE
  - Zoning: infected, protection and surveillance zone

Figure 5. The concept of zoning



**Key**

- **Infected zone**  
(VACCINATE non-infected equids)
- **Protection zone**  
(VACCINATE all equids)
- **Surveillance zone**  
(VACCINATION PROHIBITED)

# Preparing and implementing emergency vaccination

## - vaccination -

- **Vaccination:** describes the considerations to be taken into account for the purchase and the application of vaccine
  - Current available vaccines
  - Their pros and cons
  - The need for vaccination AND revaccination of ALL equids
- **Vaccination plan:** provides a stepwise explanation on how to plan the vaccination campaign and how to implement it
- **Measures after the vaccination campaign:** movement restrictions in the different zones
- **Post vaccination monitoring:** tackling the difficulties of no DIVA test for current vaccines



# Monitoring and evaluation of the response to an epidemic

- To fight a disease finances, personnel and equipment are needed
- Their availability, careful deployment and utilization need to be carefully monitored to avoid interruptions of the eradication plan
- To declare a country again free from the disease needs at least 2 years and a good monitoring plan – particularly funding for continuous surveillance to prove absence of the virus needs to be assured
- Collection and monitoring of data is of utmost importance to move along the pathway towards eradication and declaration of freedom

## Conclusion

- The risk of spread of AHS in SEA is real
- Veterinary Services and their partners should be prepared and these Guidelines, in conjunction with other OIE information material, are intended to assist in this process
- During “peace times” active surveillance should be carried out along the borders with infected countries, vector protection could be considered
- Any country experiencing an outbreak should take the OIE pathway towards official recognition of AHS freedom after recovery from the outbreak





Vet team Asian Games 2018

Dr Susanne Münstermann  
Animal Health Consultant  
Bonn, Germany

Email: [susanne.munstermann@adt.de](mailto:susanne.munstermann@adt.de)

Tel: +49 1520 8525271



**WORLD ORGANISATION FOR ANIMAL HEALTH**  
*Protecting animals, preserving our future*

12, rue de Prony, 75017 Paris, France  
[www.oie.int](http://www.oie.int)  
media@oie.int - oie@oie.int

