

## **Hendra virus information for trail users**

Horse riders using the Brisbane Valley Rail Trail should be aware of the following important information relating to Hendra virus. Hendra virus is a zoonotic disease, which means it can transfer from animals to people. Hendra virus can be transmitted from flying fox-to-horse, horse-to-horse and horse-to-human.

While the virus is present in flying fox populations, the risk of horses being infected is very low, and the transmission from horses to humans is extremely rare. There is no evidence of human-to-human spread or human-to-horse spread of Hendra virus.

The Queensland Government is managing Hendra virus through Biosecurity Queensland, a division of the Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation.

In the event that a Hendra virus incident impacts on the area where the Brisbane Valley Rail Trail is located, the Brisbane Valley Rail Trail Steering committee will introduce and maintain strict biosecurity measures as recommended by Biosecurity Queensland. This would include access and hygiene (decontamination) requirements to prevent spread of the virus.

Hendra virus is not highly contagious and the horse industry is not subject to movement restrictions for Hendra virus, except for any properties under quarantine.

If there are any equine related events held on the trail, the primary responsibility for biosecurity lies with the relevant organisation managing the event. Biosecurity Queensland has developed guidelines providing general information for organisations wishing to hold such events so please contact them for more information.

Competitors should always practise good biosecurity and hygiene for themselves and their horses and should not take sick horses to events.

For more information on human health concerns visit the Queensland Health website [www.health.qld.gov.au](http://www.health.qld.gov.au) or contact the Hotline on 13 Health (13 43 25 84).

For a copy of the 'Hendra virus information for Horse owners' or the latest information and advice on Hendra virus, contact Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23 (cost of a local call within Queensland) or via the website, [www.biosecurity.qld.gov.au](http://www.biosecurity.qld.gov.au)

If you suspect a horse had Hendra virus, notify suspected cases by contacting Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23 or the Emergency Animal Disease Watch Hotline on 1800 675 888.