

NOTICE OF EQUINE HEALTH RISK & ASSUMPTION OF LIABILITY

165th Anniversary Battle of Manassas / Bull Run Culpeper County, Virginia — May 15–17, 2026

This notice is issued to all participants, reenactors, support personnel, contractors, volunteers, and spectators attending or bringing horses to the 165th Anniversary Battle of Manassas/Bull Run event (“the Event”).

1. Current Equine Health Situation

Cases of **Equine Herpesvirus (EHV-4)** and related equine respiratory illnesses have been reported in multiple states across the United States, including **confirmed activity within Culpeper County, Virginia**, the region in which this Event will take place. EHV-4 is a contagious virus that can spread through direct horse-to-horse contact, shared equipment, contaminated surfaces, or aerosolized respiratory droplets.

The Event organizers are monitoring the situation and coordinating with local veterinarians and agricultural authorities. However, **no screening, precaution, or protocol can eliminate all risk of exposure.**

2. Mandatory Entry Requirements for All Horses

All horses entering the Event grounds **must** have:

- A **current negative Coggins test**
- No signs of fever, nasal discharge, cough, neurological symptoms, or other indicators of illness

Organizers reserve the right to **deny entry or request removal** of any horse showing symptoms of illness or lacking required documentation.

3. Voluntary Participation & Assumption of Risk

By attending the Event, each participant acknowledges and agrees that:

- **Equine activities inherently involve risks**, including but not limited to exposure to infectious diseases such as EHV-4.
- Despite reasonable precautions, **the Event cannot guarantee a disease-free environment.**
- Each participant voluntarily chooses to attend with full knowledge of these risks.
- Each participant is solely responsible for the health, monitoring, and care of their horse(s) before, during, and after the Event.

4. Release of Liability

In consideration for being permitted to attend or participate in the Event, the undersigned (or the individual accepting this notice by entering the premises) hereby:

- **Releases, waives, and discharges** the Event organizers, landowners, staff, volunteers, affiliated units, and cooperating organizations from **any and all liability**, claims, demands, or causes of action arising from or related to:
 - Exposure to EHV-4 or any other equine illness
 - Illness, injury, or death of any horse
 - Costs associated with veterinary treatment, quarantine, transportation, or loss of use
- **Agrees to indemnify and hold harmless** the Event organizers and associated parties from any claims brought by third parties arising from the participant's horses, actions, or equipment.

This release applies **regardless of whether alleged harm arises from negligence**, except where prohibited by law.

5. Participant Responsibilities

All participants bringing horses to the Event agree to:

- Monitor their horses for symptoms before arrival and throughout the weekend
- Avoid sharing buckets, tack, grooming tools, or water sources
- Follow all posted biosecurity guidelines
- Immediately report any signs of illness to Event staff
- Comply with any isolation or removal directives issued by Event veterinarians or organizers

Failure to comply may result in removal from the Event grounds.

6. Acceptance of Terms

Entry onto the Event grounds constitutes **full acceptance** of the terms of this Notice and the Release of Liability. Participants who do not agree to these terms **must not bring horses onto the premises**.

165th Anniversary Battle of Manassas / Bull Run Equine Health & Safety Measures — EHV-4 Precaution Plan

This protocol is designed to reduce, not eliminate, the risk of disease transmission. All mounted participants are expected to follow these guidelines.

A. BEFORE ARRIVAL

- Perform a **temperature check** on each horse for 3 days prior to travel
 - Normal range: 99–101°F
- **Do not bring any horse showing:**
 - Fever
 - Nasal discharge
 - Cough
 - Lethargy
 - Neurological signs
- Clean and disinfect:
 - Buckets
 - Grooming tools
 - Bits and tack
 - Trailer interior
- Pack **individual water buckets** — no shared troughs (except horses from same farm/barn)
- Bring your own:
 - Feed pans
 - Sponges
 - Towels
 - Spray bottles
- Ensure all paperwork is current and accessible at check-in

B. UPON ARRIVAL

- Check in with Event staff and present required documents
- Keep horses **separated** from unfamiliar animals during unloading

- Set up camp with **adequate spacing** between units
- Use only your own water buckets and equipment
- Avoid communal water sources unless specifically designated as safe

C. DURING THE EVENT

- Take/check your horse's temperature **when you notice any change in your horse's condition**
- Do not allow nose-to-nose contact with unfamiliar horses
- Do not share:
 - Buckets
 - Tack
 - Grooming tools
 - Feed or water sources
- Minimize mingling in tight areas (water points, hitching lines, shade tents)
- Wash hands or use sanitizer after handling any horse
- Report any signs of illness immediately to Event staff
- Be prepared to isolate or remove a horse if instructed by Event veterinarians

D. AFTER THE EVENT

- Monitor your horse for **14 days**
- Take daily temperatures
- Clean and disinfect all equipment and your trailer
- Avoid contact with outside horses until the monitoring period ends
- Contact your veterinarian if any symptoms appear

E. CONTACT & REPORTING

If your horse shows symptoms **during or after** the Event, notify:

- Event veterinary staff (onsite)
- Your home veterinarian
- Your unit commander