

# AAEP GUIDELINES

# Vaccination of Foals

All vaccination programs should be developed in consultation with a licensed veterinarian.

According to the American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP), the two categories of Core and Risk-Based Vaccinations reflect differences in the foal's susceptibility to disease and ability to mount an appropriate immune response to vaccination. The foal's response is based on the presence (or absence) of maternal antibodies derived from colostrum.

## CORE VACCINATIONS

Protect against diseases that are:

- Endemic to a region
- Virulent/highly contagious
- Pose a risk of severe disease
- Have potential public health significance
- 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 & WEANLINGS<br>( <i>&lt;12 months of age</i> )<br>of mares <b>vaccinated</b> in the<br>prepartum period against<br>the disease indicated   | FOALS & WEANLINGS<br>( <i>&lt;12 months of age</i> )<br>of <b>unvaccinated</b> mare or<br>lacking vaccination history  |
|---|--|--|
| Eastern / Western Equine<br>Encephalo-myelitis (EEE/WEE)  | <b>3-dose series:</b><br>•1 <sup>st</sup> dose 4 - 6 months of age<br>•2 <sup>nd</sup> dose 4 - 6 weeks after 1 <sup>st</sup> dose<br>•3 <sup>rd</sup> dose at 10 - 12 months of age   | <b>3-dose series:</b><br>•1 <sup>st</sup> dose 4 - 6 months of age<br>•2 <sup>nd</sup> dose 4 - 6 weeks after 1 <sup>st</sup> dose<br>•3 <sup>rd</sup> dose at 10 - 12 months of age                             |
|   | <b>COMMENTS:</b> Primary vaccination series scheduling may be amended with vaccinations administered earlier to younger foals that are at increased disease risk due to the presence of vectors.   |  |
| Rabies  | <b>2-dose series:</b><br>•1 <sup>st</sup> dose at 4 - 6 months of age ( <i>refer to manufacturer label guidelines</i> )<br>•2 <sup>nd</sup> dose 4 - 6 weeks after 1 <sup>st</sup> dose<br><br>Annual revaccination  | <b>1-dose:</b><br>•1 <sup>st</sup> dose at 4 - 6 months of age ( <i>refer to manufacturer label guidelines</i> )<br><br>Annual revaccination   |
|   | <b>COMMENTS:</b> 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   | <b>3-dose series:</b><br>•1 <sup>st</sup> dose 4 - 6 months of age<br>•2 <sup>nd</sup> dose 4 - 6 weeks after 1 <sup>st</sup> dose<br>•3 <sup>rd</sup> dose at 10 - 12 months of age<br><br>Annual revaccination   | <b>3-dose series:</b><br>•1 <sup>st</sup> dose 3 - 4 months of age<br>•2 <sup>nd</sup> dose 4 - 6 weeks after 1 <sup>st</sup> dose<br>•3 <sup>rd</sup> dose at 10 - 12 months of age<br><br>Annual revaccination |
|   | <b>COMMENTS:</b> Primary vaccination series scheduling may be amended with vaccinations administered earlier to younger foals that are at increased disease risk due to the presence of vectors.   |  |
| West Nile Virus<br>(WNV)  | <b>3-dose series:</b><br>•1 <sup>st</sup> dose 4 - 6 months of age<br>•2 <sup>nd</sup> dose 4 - 6 weeks after 1 <sup>st</sup> dose<br>•3 <sup>rd</sup> dose at 10 - 12 months of age<br><br>Annual revaccination   | <b>3-dose series:</b><br>•1 <sup>st</sup> dose 4 - 6 months of age<br>•2 <sup>nd</sup> dose 4 - 6 weeks after 1 <sup>st</sup> dose<br>•3 <sup>rd</sup> dose at 10 - 12 months of age<br><br>Annual revaccination |
|   | <b>COMMENTS:</b> Primary vaccination series scheduling may be amended with vaccinations administered earlier to younger foals that are at increased disease risk due to the presence of vectors.   |  |
| <i>*Foals in the Southeastern USA: The primary vaccination series can be initiated with an additional dose at 2 to 3 months of age due to early seasonal vector presence.</i> |  |  |

## RISK-BASED VACCINATIONS

Risk-Based Vaccinations are those having applications which may vary between individuals, populations, and geographic regions and should be performed by, or in consultation with a licensed veterinarian to identify which vaccines are appropriate for a given horse or population of horses.

| DISEASE   | FOALS & WEANLINGS (<12 months of age) of mares <b>vaccinated</b> in the prepartum period against the disease indicated   | FOALS & WEANLINGS (<12 months of age) of <b>unvaccinated</b> mare or lacking vaccination history   |
|---|--|--|
| <b>Anthrax</b>                                      | Not applicable. As it is not recommended to vaccinate mares during pregnancy there will be no foals of mares vaccinated prepartum  | No age specific guidelines are available for this vaccine.<br><br>Manufacturer's recommendation is for primary series of 2 doses administered subcutaneously at a 2 to 3-week interval.  |
|   | <b>COMMENTS:</b> 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.   |  |
| <b>Botulism</b><br>( <i>Clostridium botulinum</i> ) | <b>3-dose series:</b><br>•1 <sup>st</sup> dose 2 - 3 months of age<br>•2 <sup>nd</sup> dose 4 weeks after 1 <sup>st</sup> dose<br>•3 <sup>rd</sup> dose 4 weeks after 2 <sup>nd</sup> dose   | <b>3-dose series:</b><br>•1 <sup>st</sup> dose 1 - 3 months of age<br>•2 <sup>nd</sup> dose 4 weeks after 1 <sup>st</sup> dose<br>•3 <sup>rd</sup> dose 4 weeks after 2 <sup>nd</sup> dose   |
|   | <b>COMMENTS:</b> Maternal antibody does not interfere with vaccination; foals at high risk may be vaccinated as early as 2 weeks of age.   |  |
| <b>Equine Herpesvirus</b><br>(EHV-1 and EHV-4)      | <i>Inactivated or modified live vaccine</i><br><b>3-dose series:</b><br>•1 <sup>st</sup> dose 4 - 6 months of age<br>•2 <sup>nd</sup> dose 4 - 6 weeks after 1 <sup>st</sup> dose<br>•3 <sup>rd</sup> dose at 10 - 12 months of age<br><br>Revaccinate at 6-month intervals  | <i>Inactivated or modified live vaccine</i><br><b>3-dose series:</b><br>•1 <sup>st</sup> dose at 4 - 6 months of age<br>•2 <sup>nd</sup> dose 4 - 6 weeks after 1 <sup>st</sup> dose<br>•3 <sup>rd</sup> dose at 10 - 12 months of age<br><br>Revaccinate at 6-month intervals |
| <b>Equine Viral Arteritis</b><br>(EVA)              | <b>Colt (male) foals:</b> Single dose at 6 to 12 months of age (see comments)<br><br><b>COMMENTS:</b> 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.<br><br>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. | <b>Colt (male) foals:</b> Single dose at 6 to 2 months of age (see comments)   |

| DISEASE   | FOALS & WEANLINGS (<12 months of age) of mares <b>vaccinated</b> in the prepartum period against the disease indicated  | FOALS & WEANLINGS (<12 months of age) of <b>unvaccinated</b> mare or lacking vaccination history   |
|---|---|--|
| <b>Equine Influenza</b>                                     | <i>Inactivated vaccine</i><br><b>2 or 3-dose series:</b><br>Dependent upon the manufacturer's product recommendation, the vaccine is an initial 2 or 3 dose series with a 3 to 4-week interval between doses (IM) starting at 4-6 months of age.      | <i>Inactivated vaccine</i><br><b>2 or 3-dose series:</b><br>Dependent upon the manufacturer's product recommendation, the vaccine is an initial 2 or 3 dose series with a 3 to 4-week interval between doses (IM) starting at 4-6 months of age. |
|   | <i>Modified live vaccine</i><br><b>2 or 3-dose series:</b><br>Administer a single dose (IN) in foals 11 months of age or older<br><br>Revaccinate at 6-12 month intervals based on risk   | <i>Modified live vaccine</i><br><b>2 or 3-dose series:</b><br>Administer a single dose (IN) in foals 11 months of age or older<br><br>Revaccinate at 6-12 month intervals based on risk  |
|   | <b>COMMENTS:</b> 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. |  |
| <b>Leptospirosis</b>  | <b>2-dose series:</b><br>•1 <sup>st</sup> dose at 6 months of age<br>•2 <sup>nd</sup> dose 3 - 4 weeks after 1 <sup>st</sup> dose<br><br>Annual revaccination   | <b>2-dose series:</b><br>•1 <sup>st</sup> dose at 6 months of age<br>•2 <sup>nd</sup> dose 3 - 4 weeks after 1 <sup>st</sup> dose<br><br>Annual revaccination  |
|   | <b>COMMENTS:</b> Safety has been demonstrated in foals 3 months of age. The effects of circulating maternal antibody and vaccination have not been determined.  |  |
| <b>Potomac Horse Fever</b><br>( <i>Ehrlichia risticii</i> ) | <b>2-dose series:</b><br>•1 <sup>st</sup> dose at 5 months of age<br>•2 <sup>nd</sup> dose 3 - 4 weeks after 1 <sup>st</sup> dose   | <b>2-dose series:</b><br>•1 <sup>st</sup> dose at 5 months of age<br>•2 <sup>nd</sup> dose 3 - 4 weeks after 1 <sup>st</sup> dose  |
|   | <b>COMMENTS:</b> If risk warrants, vaccine may be administered to younger foals.<br><br>Subsequent doses are to be administered at 4-week intervals until 6 months of age.  |  |

### Additional risk-based vaccinations include Snake Bite and Strangles.

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 2020. 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](http://www.aaep.org).