



Media release

From the Department of Primary Industries

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OVER 50 EI INFORMATION SESSIONS PLANNED FOR NOVEMBER

More than 50 equine influenza community information sessions will be held across Victoria in November to ensure the community has up-to-date information on EI and the current situation in Victoria.

Victoria's Chief Veterinary Officer Dr Hugh Millar said sessions would start on November 7 and the purpose was to provide horse owners with valuable information on the EI situation on a national and state level.

"The sessions will coincide with the distribution of community information packs on horse flu.

"Sixteen information sessions will be held in Gippsland, 14 in the north east, 12 in the north west and 14 in the south west of Victoria.

"The Victorian horse owning community has done a tremendous job in helping keep Victoria EI free.

"The information packs and information sessions will help ensure every horse owner in Victoria is armed with the information and knowledge to ensure we continue to protect Victoria from this highly contagious disease.

"Work to keep EI out of Victoria will continue, including maintaining surveillance at border crossings, but containment strategies rely on continuing cooperation from the community.

"I urge the horse community to continue to follow biosecurity measures such as washing hands, clothes and horse gear after use. In addition, all horses with a high temperature or a runny nose should be vet checked for EI," Dr Millar said.

A full list of the community information sessions can be found at www.dpi.vic.gov.au. Posters for the information sessions will also be available on the website from November 2, 2007.

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