

Sader stops the alert status for Western equine encephalomyelitis virus (WEE)

There is none authorized vaccine against WEE in Mexico and it is not necessary to vaccinate as the alert status has stopped.



The National Service for Agro-Alimentary Public Health, Safety and Quality (Senasica) informed that there have been no new cases of Western equine encephalomyelitis virus (WEE) for more than 30 days in Nayarit or any other state of the country. Consequently, the national alert phase issued by the organism of the Secretariat of Agriculture and Rural Development (Sader) was concluded.

Senasica detailed that the permanent passive epidemiological surveillance phase began after contingency actions. It consists on providing immediate attention to reports of any suspicion.

That is why; the Secretariat of Agriculture and Rural Development of Nayarit stopped the precautionary quarantine blocking equines mobilization into their territory and out of the state. Therefore, the organization of events with the participation of equines is already possible.

The organism of Sader pointed out that once the epidemiologic alert has concluded, it is not necessary to vaccinate equines. The organism also emphasized that so far there is no authorized vaccination against WEE in Mexico.

As a result, the organism detailed that technicians and scientists of the Senasica and of the National Producer of Veterinary Biologics (Pronabive) continue working in the development of a specific vaccine in order to be able to take actions in the event of a new alert.

The organism reiterated that even though the restriction of equines mobilization in Nayarit has been stopped, there are different suggestions in force, such as: protect equines from *Culex tarsalis* mosquito bites, using door and window screens and repellent against insects.

Additionally, stables must be fumigated and maintained free of weeds, feces and other organic material which may be used as habitat by insects. Immediately notify to the Senasica staff about any case of equines with neurological alteration.

It is important to remember that Western equine encephalomyelitis virus is an infectious disease caused by a virus which is transmitted from birds to equines through mosquito bites.