

Business Continuity Plan for Equine Events













A hands-on exercise designed to aid you in preventing a disease outbreak from hitting your bottom line.

Facebook and Twitter are going crazy with the following headline: "A horse competing at the BestHorseShowEver Arena in HorseHeaven County has tested positive for Equine Herpes Virus". The comments on Facebook are that the remainder of the event is being cancelled, competitors are losing their entry money, no horses are allowed on or off the show grounds. It is impossible to find any news indicating what actions are being taken to respond to this situation in the news. It sounds like Dooms Day. The unfortunate part is that you are the manager of the BestHorseShowEver Arena. The fortunate part is that you have prepared your event for just this scenario. You have taken steps to control further disease spread, keep everyone well informed, and most importantly, allow your event to continue and generate revenue.



This document is designed as a walk-through type of discussion piece. As you walk through your facility with your veterinarian, you will discuss and analyze the critical parts of your management to help prevent disease from coming to your event as well as preparing, responding, and controlling the spread of disease for your event on the off chance something does happen. We understand that not every item is feasible or applies to your event, so utilize what works for you the best.

Section one is where you get to make some choices about what you will require of your competitors for entry into your event. The more complete your entry requirements, the better are your chances of not allowing a sick horse into your event in the first place. Check boxes are provided for the items you will require for your event.

Section two is a series of planning questions and inventories designed to help you prepare for the worst. You want this section to be heavy on details. If it is short on specifics, you will find it difficult to respond effectively in Section three. Check the boxes that apply to you and provide details specific to your event.

Section three is where you explain how you will limit horses at your equine event from contracting or spreading disease. This portion of the plan reiterates your excellent planning in Section two and provides details for disease mitigation. Again, you will want to check the boxes that apply to you and to provide details where asked.

Section four and five deal with how you will manage your event, work with State Animal Health Officials and how you will respond to the public in the event of the worst case scenario – a horse with a contagious disease. This includes releasing horses from your event.

At the conclusion of the document is an assessment that will provide more details about why certain aspects of the plan are important. Hopefully it will provide you with some additional ideas you can use to help you strengthen your plan and preparedness.



- a. What if a horse comes to your event with a contagious disease?
- b. What if a horse presents with signs of EHV-1 during your event?
- What if you find out a horse has EHV-1 after competing at your event?

Congratulations at taking steps towards protecting your event!







Equine Herpes Virus Business Continuity Plan For
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
Section 1 - Preventing disease from entering your event:
$\hfill\square$ Publish messages in your premium book, prizelist or entry form advertising your event's preparedness.
$\hfill\Box$ Collect exhibitor information in an electronic format that can be easily sorted and shared.
\square Obtain current, on-site, contact information for exhibitors upon arrival.
☐ Ask exhibitors to provide a horse health declaration to be signed upon arrival and/or published in your premium book: <i>{See Appendix A as an example}</i>
 No fever of 102 degrees F or higher for prior 3 days No known exposure to sick horses in previous 3 days Horse is/has been free of signs of contagious disease for previous 3 days No nasal discharge No enlargement of lymph nodes No diarrhea No hair loss No signs of wobbly gait or incoordination
\square Require exhibitors to provide vaccination records:
 □EHV-1/EHV-4 to control respiratory disease □Influenza to control respiratory disease □Rabies to reduce public health risk
\square Provide a negative EIA Test report within 12 months of the equine event
\Box Certificate of veterinary inspection (CVI or "Health Certificate") within days of the equine event, including visual verification that animals listed on certificate are on the trailer.
$\hfill \Box$ Will you change the window of days in which you will accept CVI if there is a disease outbreak during your event?
$\hfill\Box$ Yes – The new requirement will be the CVI must be within days of the equine event.
□ No
☐ Perform visual inspection and recording of body temperature on each horse upon arrival.

\square Use this box to explain how you will respond to a competitor who arrives without any of y
Section 2 - Preparing your equine event for a disease outbreak:
☐ Have you identified and prepared an area to be used as an isolation area for sick horse(s) {Reference California Dept. of Food & Agriculture Biosecurity Toolkit Appendix T for setting an isolation area} Describe the location and details of your isolation area:
□ Have you discussed with your event veterinarian at what point or which symptoms you w move a sick horse to isolation? Describe the situations and symptoms you and your veterinarian agree will warrant moving horse to isolation:
☐ Have you created a plan for transporting sick horse(s): ☐ To temporary isolation: Describe how you will transport a horse(s) to temporary isolation:

	equine medical center for treatment and hospitalization: I will transport a horse(s) to an equine medical center:
=	ssed the role(s) your staff will play during a normal equine event? Have you e following people how their role may or may not change if a sick horse is
3. 4. 5. 6. 7.	Show managers, superintendents, general managers, board members Those that assign stalls Those that clean stall Those that inspect horses for entry or exit Those that deliver feed or bedding Equipment operators Veterinary medical personnel Public information sources Grounds/facilities managers
	in an updated event personnel contact information list? {See Appendix B for
2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7.	Equine Event Management staff State Veterinarian's Office Equine Event Veterinarians Local Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital/Equine Medical Center Contacts for moving a downed and/or deceased horse Facility management in charge of isolation area Contacts for ordering additional biosecurity supplies Public relations Contacts
=	in an inventory of supplies you will use for controlling the movement of e during a disease outbreak?
□Rop □Con □Sign □Tap	es s

\square Have you identified a location such as a conference room or grandstands to hold briefings for event staff, veterinary staff, exhibitors and media? Describe the location you will use for information briefings:
☐ Do you have a plan for the disposal of medical devices such as needles and syringes? Describe how you will dispose of medical devices:
Section 3 - Controlling exposure during the equine event:
☐ Have you considered how you will limit horse-to-horse contact? Listed below are some examples.
{See Appendix C for an example of horse-to-horse contact challenges}
Stall areas have complete barriers between horses.
2. Separate stabling & common use areas for event and demographics eg. Rodeo
horses not in Horse Show area, Horse Show horses not in Rodeo area.
3. Stabling horses that will be staying for the entire duration of the event separated
from horses that will coming and going during the event.
Describe how you will limit horse-to-horse contact:
Ulaya yay agasidayad waya ta limit indiyaat bayaa agatast2 Listad balayyaya agas ayayanlas
Have you considered ways to limit indirect horse contact? Listed below are some examples. 1. Discourage the sharing of tack, feed and water buckets
g ,
2. Consider how you will encourage good hand hygiene.
Describe how you will limit indirect horse contact, including your plan to facilitate hand hygiene:

 □ Have you prepared biosecurity materials showing how to prevent disease spread while at the equine event to be posted around your facility? Listed below are a few examples. {See Appendix D for an example} 1. Posters with hand washing directions 2. Biosecurity posters
□Understanding that dogs can spread disease around your event, have you decided what your event policy regarding dogs will be? Describe your event's policy on dogs:
\square Will your event limit human-to-horse contact by restricting visitor access to horses? \square Yes
□No
If so, describe how you will restrict visitor access:
□ Does your event have measures in place to control wildlife, including removal? Describe your policy for controlling wildlife at your event:
□Will your event employ an insect and vector control program that includes spraying? Describe how you will control insects and other pests at your event:

•	our procedures for cleaning and/or disinfecting of stabling, common use areas, areas? These procedures should include manure removal protocol:
1.	When and how will you clean and disinfect stabling, common use and commingling areas? Include which disinfectant you will use and at what dilution? (eg. bleach & water dilution 10:1) Remember that cleaning means removal of organic matter first, to be followed by cleansing with soap &
	water & then disinfection.
2.	How will you handle and remove soiled bedding?
3.	How will feed and bedding be delivered to stabling area:
4.	Will you make any major changes to your cleaning, disinfecting, and manure removal procedures if sick horses are detected during the event? If so, describe those changes here. It is advisable that your standard procedures not deviate greatly from every day procedures

Section 4 - Managing the equine event after a horse is reported with clinical signs of concern:

- 1. Have your Event Veterinarian contact State Animal Health Officials to discuss the situation and plan the next steps with their input
- 2. Move sick horse(s) to isolation area based on the parameters you discussed with your event veterinarian
- 3. Enact entry and exit protocol for the isolation area
 - a. Regulate and record entry and exit of people
 - b. Only allow trained personnel in the isolation area
 - c. Provide protective or separate set of boots/clothing (or provide disposable, waterproof over boots & coveralls) only for the isolation area
 - d. Manure/bedding/feed removed from isolation area placed in bags, NOT hauled with equipment used to clean other areas.
- 4. Conduct a mandatory 0700 incident briefing at pre-determined location
 - a. Internal incident briefing
 - i. Facility staff
 - ii. Event Veterinarians
 - iii. State Animal Health officials
 - iv. Equine event managers
 - b. General public incident briefing
 - i. Media
 - ii. State Horse Council
 - iii. National Equine Disease Communication Center (once established)
 - iv. Practicing Veterinarians
 - v. Exhibitors
- 5. Issue a press release pre-planning of the key items is critical **(See Appendix E)**
- 6. Use ropes, cones and signs to restrict movement of horses and people
- 7. Enact any changes to your cleaning and disinfecting protocol discussed earlier
- 8. Once contagious disease is suspected, implement enhanced monitoring of the health of all horses including recording of body temperature of horses at the equine event

{See Appendix F}

- a. Require two (2) times per day body temperature recording of all horses at the event.
- b. Post temperature log on the stall
- c. Event veterinarians do daily walk through stabling area while using barrier precaution and have them verify accuracy of temperature recorded on temperature logs periodically

Section 5 - Releasing horses from the equine event:

\square Distribute information to exhibitors on monitoring and infection control practices for horses upon exit as well as biosecurity measures to practice at home.
Record exit/release time of horse(s)
☐ Complete exposed horse release assessment {See Appendix G}

Congratulations! By working through this document, you have enhanced your event's ability to mitigate disease outbreaks. You have done planning that has advanced your ability to respond to a disease situation so that you can continue to have a successful equine event.

Your planning is complete; next you will find a plan assessment to help you evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of your plan. It will provide you with ideas on how to further strengthen your plan.



Business Continuity for Equine Events Assessment

Dwight D. Eisenhower said "In preparing for battle I have always found that plans are useless, but planning is indispensable". While some of the details in this section may seem mundane, they are important for the success and strength of your planning. This is a tool to help you find the strengths in your biosecurity measures as well as find areas for improvement in the prevention, mitigation and control of disease outbreaks at your event. For each section, use the stoplights and descriptions to see what changes you can implement for the preparedness of your event. It is likely that you won't have selected every item in the "green light" boxes and that is ok because this is not pass or fail – it needs to be best practices for <u>YOUR</u> event. The more "green light" options and details you have, the less likely a disease outbreak is to affect adversely your bottom line and inhibit the continuation of your event.

<u>Section 1 – Preventing disease from entering your event:</u>

Strength	Details
GREEN	□ Collecting current contact information at check-in □ Requiring a negative EIA test report □ Recommending vaccines to control infections respiratory disease & rabies □ Requiring a horse health declaration □ Requiring a CVI written less than 10 days of event at all times □ Requiring entry information to be in
YELLOW	electronic format □ Collecting current contact information □ Requiring a CVI written between 15-30 days of event □ Requiring a negative EIA test report □ Recommending vaccines to control infectious respiratory disease & rabies
RED	 Not requiring competitors to provide any information regarding the status of the horse's health. Not requiring exhibitor contact information No visual inspection of the horses at the event

<u>Section 2 – Preparing your equine event for a disease outbreak:</u>

Strength	Details
	□ Locate and be prepared to set up an isolation area with restricted access □ A plan to transport horses that includes where the truck and trailer will be located,
GREEN	who will drive and where the keys will be located A brief written plan that states what everyone's role will be during a normal event and after a disease outbreak is reported Updated staff 24/7 contact list distributed to all staff Maintain a regularly restocked adequate supply of cones, ropes, signs etc.
YELLOW	□ Locating an isolation area, but not having supplies on hand to prepare it. □ Discussing a plan to transport horses, but not having a means to do so promptly. □ Discussing but not clearly maintaining an inventory, contact list or designating people's roles □ Assuming you can decide where to have an informational meeting later.
RED	□ Lack of an isolation area □ Lack of an ability to transport a sick horse □ No communication of job duties/roles □ Not maintaining any inventory of supplies □ Not maintaining a contact list □ Not identifying a location for information briefings.

<u>Section 3 – Controlling exposure during the equine event:</u>

Strength	Details
*	☐ Using stalls that have complete barriers
	between horses.
	☐Assigning stalls based on where horses will
	compete & how long they will be at the event.
GREEN	☐ Posting signs to discourage sharing of water buckets and tack
	☐ Distributing biosecurity materials to
	exhibitors
	☐A policy that does not allow for dogs
	anywhere at the event or on the facility
	☐ Prohibiting visitor access to the horses
	☐Cleaning and disinfecting stable area prior
	to & on a regular basis throughout the event
	☐ Making plans to ensure manure removal
	vehicles, feed and bedding delivery vehicles
	and other regular traffic do not cross
	quarantine areas in the event of an outbreak
*	\square Some (limited) commingling of horses in
*	common use areas
	Record of where horses are stabled
YELLOW	☐ Posting signs discouraging the shared use of
TELEGYV	water buckets and tack
	Restricting dogs to leashes, under exhibitor
	control at all times & only in authorized areas Some (limited) restriction of visitor access
	to horses & encourage use of hand hygiene
	after or between horse contacts.
	☐A wildlife and insect removal plan
	Removing soiled bedding & manure from
	communal manure dumping areas from the
	facility regularly
	☐Some (limited) regular cleaning and
	disinfecting of the facility
	☐Allowing horses to be tied or stabled
	without restrictions.
	\square Not assigning stalls with a stabling map or
	based on a plan to categorize horses by days
	at event or competition location/type
	☐ Placing communal water tanks for anyone

	to use □ Allowing dogs to run free on the facility □ Allowing complete visitor access to horses □ Allowing dead or sick wildlife into your facility
RED	☐ Not controlling insects or not removing manure from stabling area regularly ☐ Only cleaning areas after the conclusion of the event ☐ Not using a disinfectant after cleaning

APPENDIX A

An example of a generic horse health declaration

Your Logo Here	Equine Health Declaration
	horses during event:
On alto contest number f	or responsible party:
	nd number:
Vehicle State and license	t:Number of horses in shipment:
shown signs of infectious	, declare that the horse(s) listed on the Certificate of Veterinary Inspection is lass/have been in good health, with body temperature(s) below 102°F, eating normally, has/have not disease for the three (3) days preceding arrival at this event. The horse(s) also has/have not had contacted the state of the last fourteen (14) days.
Signature:	Date:
Your Logo Here	Equine Health Declaration
Name of person in charge	of horses during event:
Responsible party address	<u>. </u>
On-site contact number fo	or responsible party:
	t: Number of horses in shipment:
vernoe state and incerse	
shown signs of infectious	, declare that the horse(s) listed on the Certificate of Veterinary Inspection as/have been in good health, with body temperature(s) below 102°F, eating normally and has/have no disease for the three (3) days preceding arrival at this event. The horse(s) also has/have not had contacted the hadden arrival at this event. The horse(s) also has/have not had contacted the hadden arrival at this event. The horse(s) also has/have not had contacted the hadden arrival at the last fourteen (14) days.
Signature:	Date:

APPENDIX B

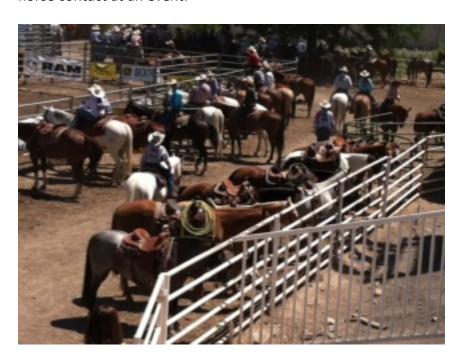
An example of a contact list to be distributed to event staff

Contact List for Equine Event:

Contact Type	Contact Info
Important Event Staff	
State Veterinarian's Office	Main number:
Event Veterinarian	
Local Veterinary Teaching Hospital	
Moving down/deceased horse	
Event Facility Management	
Biosecurity Supplies	

APPENDIX C

These photos illustrate the challenges faced when trying to prevent or control direct horse-to-horse contact at an event.





APPENDIX D

Some examples of biosecurity materials you can distribute or post at your event



BASIC BIOSECURITY

Simple steps for keeping your horses healthy.



Handling Sick Horses

- Immediately isolate sick horses away from the rest of the herd.
- Follow disinfection techniques with all equipment that comes in contact with sick horses (see disinfection section).
- Consult with your veterinarian about needed health care or vaccination protocols.
- Carefully sanitize all stalls, buckets, flooring and other equipment when a sick horse leaves the facility.
- Use a shallow basin full of properly mixed disinfectant for staff to wash their shoes in before leaving the area containing sick horses.
- Offer hand sanitizers to any and all people who have touched sick horses before healthy horses are touched.
- Carefully read and follow directions on the labels of any disinfectants or sanitizers used.



Safety When Traveling

- Be sure to maintain an up-to-date Coggins test for all your horses and carry it with you when you travel, along with a list of all current vaccinations and any medications needed.
- Do not use common water buckets or feed areas at shows or event grounds.
- Do not share twitches, lip chains, halters, or other items that may touch a horse's eyes, nose or mouth.
- Keep daily temperature logs for your horses, particularly if they show signs of malaise or nappetence.
- Isolate any sick animals immediately when signs are recognized.
- If you are traveling out of state, contact your veterinarian to obtain CVI (Certified Veterinary Inspection) health papers



At Home Precautions

- Work with your veterinarian to design an appropriate vaccination program for all horses in your care.
- Be sure that horses entering your facility have up-to-date vaccinations as required and that they are free from communicable diseases.
- Isolate incoming horses for at least 2 3
 weeks before allowing them exposure to horses currently on the grounds.
 Do not share water or feed buckets among
- When cleaning buckets, be sure not to let the hose nozzle touch the bucket itself.
- Assign a set of grooming tools to each horse in your facility and clean them regularly.
 Remove all manure and waste products to an appropriate location away from the barn.
- Take steps to limit horses' exposure to pest disease vectors such as flies.
- Consult with your voter as ines.

 Consult with your voterinarian about ongoing wellness care for your horses, including regular physical and demonstrations and a recommended deworming program. mmended deworming program.



Disinfection

- Remove all excess debris or dirt from items to be disinfected.
- Wash the item first with a detergent such as laundry or dish soap.
- ▶ Follow this washing by dipping the item in a
- For disinfection, you may use commercially available brands such as ROCCAL®-D Plus. Be sure to follow label instructions.
- Disinfection can be completed on items such
- as nylon halters, bits, lip chains, grooming equipment, shovels, pitchforks and even shoes
- Be sure to rinse the disinfectant off completely. Use clean water at least 2 3 times before you use the item to be certain the excess disinfectant is removed.





APPENDIX E

An example of a fillable EHV-1 Press Release

media release

YOUR EQUINE EVENT/COMPANY NAME

www.yourwebsite.com www.yoursocialmedialink.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date:

Contact: List your media representative's contact info here

Equine Herpes Virus Confirmed in Horse Stalled at the is investigating one confirmed case of Equine Herpes Virus Dateline. - The horses including the index (EHV-1) within the state. A quarantine has been placed on _ case; a hold order has been placed on _ additional horses who may have had direct contact. Use this section to discuss briefly the scenario surrounding the positive case. Include details about the horse, where the horse was tested, which lab confirmed the results, and some details on the procedures used to care for and identify the disease. Here is an example: (The affected horse, a six year old gelding from Texas, is part of the team of quarter horses used during the National Western Stock Show (The articutes moste, a six years ord get unity from 1 exast, is part of the tellar for quarter mones used quanting the valuations (NWSS) sodies to pull a stage-coach during rodeo performances. The horse began showing clinical signs January 27 and was transported to the Colorado State University Veterinary Teaching Hospital for diagnosis and treatment. The diagnosis of Equine Herpes Virus was confirmed January 28, 2013, the affected horse is isolated and in stable condition. The other horses from the team are under quarantine at the NWSS coliseum and hold orders have been placed on other contact horses.)

Use this section to explain what your event is doing in response to the confirmed case.

("The Department is taking quick and appropriate actions to investigate, control and mitigate this disease," said State Veterinarian, Dr. Keith Roehr. "We will continue to trace the potential contacts of this horse in order to protect Colorado's equine industry.")

Use this section to explain that you already have a response plan in place. List some of the details of your plan and how it will help you mitigate and control disease. Be sure to include details about the times and location of your media and non-media briefings. It is important to reiterate here that the plan allows your event to continue and exhibitors can feel confident.

If you desire, you may use this section to describe the symptoms and other associate concerns with the

(Symptoms include fever, decreased coordination, nasal discharge, urine dribbling, loss of tail tone, hind limb weakness, leaning against a wall or fence to maintain balance, lethargy, and the inability to rise. While there is no cure, the symptoms of the disease may be treatable

EHV-1 is not transmis sible to people; it can be a serious disease of horses that can cause respiratory, neurologic disease and death. The most common way for EHV-1 to spread is by direct horse-to-horse contact. The virus can also spread through the air, contaminated equipment, dothing and hands.)

It may also be helpful to list additional resources as well as contact information for exhibitors.

(Additional Resources:

- A Guide To Understanding the Neurologic Form of EHV Infection
 USDA Animal Plant Health Inspection Service Resources

 Merican Assoc. of Equipe Practitioners Fact Sheet)

APPENDIX F

A sample Temperature recording log you may use to monitor the health of horses at your event after the report of a sick horse.

Temperature Monitoring Log

Horse Name:	ne:Owner Name:													
Contact Person N	Name: Cell Phone Number:													
Instructions: Record the rectal body temperature of horse two times/day, every morning and evening. A body temperature recording above 102°F is considered a fever that must be reported to a veterinarian and/or event management. Record in Comments the presence (Y) or absence (N) of clinical signs of disease, which includes, but is not limited to, the following: abnormal nasal discharge, coughing, diarrhea, ataxia or wobbly gait, altered mentation (aggression or stupor), abnormal slobbering or off feed.														
	Date	:	Date	:	Date	:	Date	:	Date	:	Date	:	Date	
	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM
Temperature	°F	°F	°F	°F	°F	°F	°F	°F	°F	°F	°F	°F	°F	°F
Clinical Signs? Y or N														
Comments:														
	Date:	Date: Date:		Date: Date:		Date:		Date:		Date:				
	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM
Temperature	°F	°F	°F	°F	°F	°F	°F	°F	°F	°F	°F	°F	°F	°F
Clinical Signs? Y or N														
Comments:														

APPENDIX G

Exposed Horse Release Assessment

Part 1: - Owner/Agent								
Horse Name		Stall # at Event						
Owner/Agent Name		Contact Number						
Horse Hauler		Date of Arrival						
List Other Horse(s) in Trailer								
Trailer								
	List of Classes or Events Horse Participated in							
		Ring /Event						
Date	Event Name	Location		Comments				
Communal Area Use Wash Rack	Yes/No	If Yes, Date of Use		If Yes, Specify location				
Exercise Area								
Trails								
Water Sources								
Destination Address:								
Destination Contact		Contact						
Person:		Number:						
Destination Assessmen disease spread	t: Answers of "No" signify i	increased risk for		YES/NO				
Can you isolate the horse for 2 weeks with no direct contact with other horses?								
Can the horse be separated from other horses by a distance of more than 30 feet?								
Can you take and record the horse's temperature twice a day?								
Can you monitor the horse daily for clinical signs of disease?								
	quire disposable gloves and							
	parate person to handle this							

Exposed Horse Release Assessment

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

Part 2: Event Official Assessment

-	f "Yes" signify increased risk of disease s	pread	YES/NO
Is this horse showing clinic			
	contact with an infected/ sick horse in t	_	
Did this horse have direct	contact with infected/ sick horse in any	common area?	
Did this horse have direct	contact with infected/ sick horse being	trailered to this event?	
Did this horse compete in	the same events/classes/competitions	as an infected /sick horse?	
	General Guidelines		
		Release: minimal risk; recomr	nend
Low-Risk Horse	No known exposure at event	monitoring at destination	
	•	Release if adequate biosecurity n	
		are available at destination; reco	mmend
	Potential exposure during stabling	monitoring body temperature of	horse at
Medium-Risk Horse	and/or competition	destination location for fourteen	(14) days
		Isolate on site with possible testir	ig before
		release and assessment before a	llowing
High-Risk Horse	Known direct contact	movement from the event pre	mises
	Release Decision (Date and Initial	Final Decision)	
	Release Low-Risk: Recommend Monito	oring	
	Release Medium-Risk: Recommend me	onitoring temperature for 14	
	days		
	High-Risk: Deny release; remain on eve	ent premises for re-evaluation	
	•		

Departure Date

Departure Time Release Instructions Initials