



NEWS RELEASE

Texas Animal Health Commission

Andy Schwartz, DVM • Executive Director

P.O. Box 12966 • Austin, Texas 78711 • (800) 550-8242 <http://www.tahc.texas.gov>

For more information contact the Public Information Dept. at 512-719-0750 or at public_info@tahc.texas.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 9, 2019

Vesicular Stomatitis (VSV) in Texas Situational Update

No. 5

AUSTIN – Since Friday, August 2, 2019, the Texas Animal Health Commission has received reports of 13 new confirmed cases of vesicular stomatitis virus (VSV) and 16 new suspect cases.

Since the last VSV situational update (August 2, 2019):

Bastrop County	2 new confirmed positive premises	3 new suspect premises
Bell County	1 new confirmed positive premises	0 new suspect premises
Coryell County	1 new confirmed positive premises	0 new suspect premises
Erath County	1 new confirmed positive premises	0 new suspect premises
Falls County	1 new confirmed positive premises	0 new suspect premises
Guadalupe County	0 new confirmed positive premises	1 new suspect premises
Haskell County	1 new confirmed positive premises	0 new suspect premises
McLennan County	0 new confirmed positive premises	3 new suspect premises
Palo Pinto County	2 new confirmed positive premises	1 new suspect premises
Parker County	1 new confirmed positive premises	0 new suspect premises
Travis County	0 new confirmed positive premises	5 new suspect premises
Williamson County	3 new confirmed positive premises	3 new suspect premises

The newly confirmed and suspect premises are under quarantine by the TAHC. Affected horses and cattle will be monitored by regulatory and authorized veterinarians until premises are eligible for quarantine release 14 days after clinical VSV signs are observed.

Classification of Cases

Premises that have laboratory diagnostic confirmation of VSV are categorized as confirmed positive premises. Once a county is confirmed as VSV-positive, new premises presenting with clinical signs of VSV in that county are not required to be tested for confirmation of the disease, but the premises will be quarantined and classified as a suspect premises.

Summary of the Outbreak

The 2019 VSV outbreak began on June 21, 2019, when the National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL) in Ames, Iowa confirmed the first VSV-positive premises in Kinney County, Texas. All cases of VSV had been found on equine premises until July 30, 2019 when

the first case of VSV was confirmed in cattle in Gonzales County. New Mexico, Colorado, Wyoming, and Oklahoma subsequently broke with cases which were confirmed by NVSL.

To date, 143 premises in 32 Texas counties have been quarantined for VSV. Currently affected counties include: Bastrop, Bell, Brown, Caldwell, Coleman, Coryell, Eastland, Erath, Falls, Gonzales, Guadalupe, Haskell, Hood, Lampasas, Mason, McLennan, Mills, Palo Pinto, Parker, San Saba, Shackelford, Somervell, Taylor, Travis, and Williamson counties. Of the 143 premises quarantined, 52 have been released.

2019 Texas VSV Quarantine Summary				
Texas County	Confirmed Positive Quarantined	Suspect Premises	Premises Released from Quarantine	Current Premises Quarantined
Bastrop	8	48	21	35
Bell	1	0	0	1
Brown	1	0	0	1
Caldwell	2	1	2	1
Coleman	3	0	2	1
Coryell	1	0	0	1
Eastland	1	0	0	1
Erath	1	0	0	1
Falls	1	0	0	1
Gonzales*	1	0	0	1
Guadalupe	1	3	0	4
Haskell	1	0	0	1
Hays	1	3	4	0
Hood	4	3	5	2
Johnson	1	0	1	0
Kerr	1	0	1	0
Kinney	1	0	1	0
Lampasas	1	0	0	1
Mason	1	0	0	1
McLennan	1	3	0	4
Mills	1	0	0	1
Palo Pinto	6	1	0	7
Parker	3	1	0	4
San Saba	1	0	0	1
Shackelford	2	0	1	1
Somervell	2	1	1	2
Taylor	1	0	0	1
Tom Green	3	0	3	0
Travis	2	15	8	9
Val Verde	1	0	1	0
Wichita	1	0	1	0
Williamson	4	4	0	8
Totals:	60	83	52	91

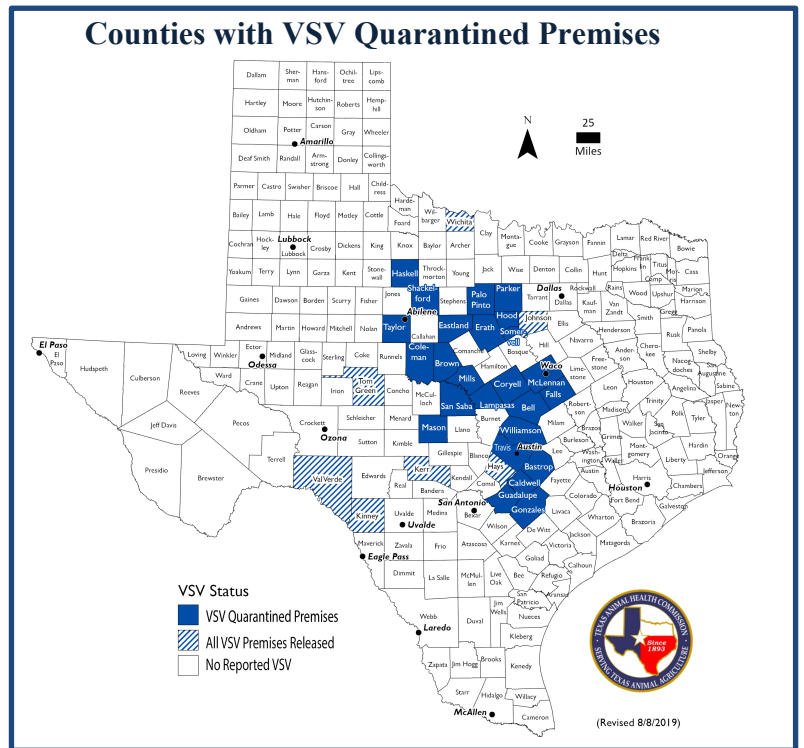
** First VSV-positive cattle case in Texas this year.*

What Veterinarians Need to Know:

- Several states are imposing enhanced entry requirements on Texas livestock due to the VSV cases. For information, contact the state of destination. For a list of state animal health offices visit [https://www.usaha.org/upload/Federal%20and%20State%20Health/STATE ANIMAL HEALTH OFFICIALS%20-%20Copy%201.pdf](https://www.usaha.org/upload/Federal%20and%20State%20Health/STATE_ANIMAL_HEALTH_OFFICIALS%20-%20Copy%201.pdf).
- If you suspect your client's horse has VSV, contact your [TAHC Region Office](#) for paperwork, procedures, and important sample submission information.

What Equine and Cattle Owners Need to Know:

- VSV is a viral disease that primarily affects horses and cattle.
- In the past decade, the Southwestern and Western United States have experienced a number of VSV outbreaks. Outbreaks usually occur during the warmer months, often along waterways.
- VSV normally has an incubation period of 2-8 days before the infected animal develops blisters that swell and burst, leaving painful sores. The virus can be transmitted through direct contact with infected animals or by blood-feeding insects.
- If VSV is confirmed, infected animals are quarantined for 14 days after clinical signs of lesions are observed. This short-term quarantine helps prevent the movement of animals and the spread of the disease to other premises, fairs or markets.



Strategies for Preventing VSV

Even with the best defensive measures, VSV could infect a herd. However, these tips may help protect livestock:

1. Control biting flies
2. Keep equine animals stalled or under a roof at night to reduce exposure to flies
3. Keep stalls clean
4. Feed and water stock from their individual buckets
5. Don't visit a ranch that's under quarantine for VSV. Wait until the animals have healed

TAHC sends out VSV updates every Friday and all cases will be reported to the [Equine Disease Communication Center](#). For VSV history and past TAHC updates [click here](#). To view the USDA 2019 VSV situation reports [click here](#).

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