

# Equine Rotavirus



## What is equine rotavirus?

- Equine rotavirus is one of the most common causes of diarrhea in foals less than six months of age.
- Early detection and treatment of affected foals are ideal for rapid recovery.
- Sick foals are highly contagious and should be separated from other foals on the property.

## What you can do to keep your horse healthy:

- To prevent infection, pregnant mares can be vaccinated to increase foals' antibodies to the virus.
- Ensure good biosecurity practices are followed.
- Since the virus can persist in the environment, do not spread manure from infected horses on pastures.

### Signs

Diarrhea  
Lethargy  
Anorexia  
Reluctance to nurse  
Distended abdomen

### Transmission

Ingestion of  
contaminated materials  
Lick contaminated  
surfaces

### Treatment

Supportive care

*\*If your horse needs medical care, contact the Large Animal Clinic at (530) 752-1393.*



**UC DAVIS**  
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Center for Equine Health

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