

There are several factors to consider when vaccinating your horse(s). Talking with your veterinarian about these options can help determine the risks your horse(s) face and what vaccinations are necessary.

Risks of disease

1. Age of Horse - Is the horse in a high-risk age group for a particular disease?
2. Reproductive Status - Certain disease may affect reproductive function but will not impact geldings.
3. Exposure to Other Horses
 - A. Is your horse in a boarding/training facility?
 - B. Does he travel/compete in horse-dense environments - racetracks, shows, etc.?
 - C. Does he have exposure across fence-lines to neighboring farms?
4. Exposure to Disease Vectors
 - A. Mosquitoes or other insects?
 - B. Other mammals - wild or domestic?
 - C. Human visitors from other barns?
5. Geography
 - A. Some diseases are more common in one region than another
 - B. Temperature and climate fluctuations can affect vector populations and/or persistence of an organism in the environment.
 - C. Between climate change and the increasing ease and frequency of travel, geographic disease patterns are shifting. Witness the spread of West Nile Virus across the U.S. a few years ago.
6. Immune function - older horses, horses that have been ill or stressed, or horses that have been treated with corticosteroids may have compromised immune systems.