



All competitors must abide by the rules regarding Flu Vaccinations at Area and Championship Level. A table of dates is available to enable swift and accurate checking which can be located in the BRC Handbook (appendix 24). There is also an online excel based date checker, which can be downloaded here -

<http://www.bhs.org.uk/enjoy-riding/british-riding-clubs/brc-downloads>. This will run on a smart phone as well as a computer.

Important information

- The number of days allowed between each injection is an important figure to abide by
- After the first injection is administered there must be a second injection no less than 21, but no more than 92 days after the first injection. (After the second injection the horse is able to compete in BRC official competitions, but no injection may have been administered in the six days prior to the competition, or on the day of the competition itself)
- A third injection given no less than 150 days but no more than 215 days after the second one completes the primary course, and from there on annual boosters are all that are needed
- When counting the days 'Day One' is the day after the injection
- It is permissible for the horse to have had the annual booster on the same date in successive years
- If the horse has had five correct annual boosters over the last five years and had the initial two injections administered correctly any errors relating to the third injection, or to any interim annual boosters may be ignored
- Leap years must be taken in to consideration for the three primary course injections, but may be ignored for annual boosters
- Some horses have six monthly boosters. These are permissible, and should be treated in the same way as an annual injection

How to assess the dates contained in a vaccination history

- Start at the bottom and work your way up until you have passed five annual injections correctly administered OR you come across the primary course
- If there are five annual correct annual injections all you need do then is continue back up through the dates until you find the first two injections of the primary course. Any errors in interim annual injections or with the third injection of the primary course can be ignored
- If the primary course was started within the last five years then all three injections need to be correct, as well as the subsequent annuals

Common limitations

- Writing can be hard to read. Give the rider the benefit of the doubt if at all possible, but ask them to seek clarification from the vet or the practice who gave the injection for future reference
- Be aware that Continental / American vets write the month followed by the date when writing the date as a numeric
- Dates can be written in Roman numerals
- Vaccinations other than for Equine Flu are occasionally recorded on the FV page in the passport. The table of dates also includes a list of current vaccination brands so it is possible to discount any jabs that do not protect against influenza

How to use the Table of Dates to check Flu Vac's

- Look down the left hand column until you find the date of the very first injection of the primary course. You may need to round up or down by a few days as the dates listed are in seven day intervals
- Look across to the next column immediately to the right and you will see two columns with a date range covering the 21 day to 92 day interval. The date of the second injection should fall within that range including the start and finish dates
- The next step is to go back to the left hand column and look for the date of the second injection. You then need to move to the second column on the right, which gives you the date range between 150 and 215 days

How to identify the horse

It is important to check that the vaccination certificate belongs to the horse that has been presented.

- Turn to the ID page
- Look for any identifying marks - blazes, white socks etc. that will enable you to carry out a swift visual comparison
- If the horse is plain in colour look for Whorls in the coat (marked on the drawing with an 'X'), or Prophets Thumbmarks (marked on the drawing with a triangle)
- Freeze marks are a very quick way to confirm identity but only if they have been recorded as part of the identity page in the passport, or signed and stamped by a vet if on a white card vaccination history. The location of the freeze mark as well as the number should be clearly shown on the identity diagram
- Every Area has a microchip scanner that the Area Representative is responsible for. This should be made available at area qualifiers. It is not unknown for horses to have no identity diagram filled out, and instead just have the barcode and microchip sticker stuck on to the page instead, so don't worry if you come across this
- The scanner will read the microchip number which you can then compare with the information in the passport

What to do if the Flu Vac is incorrect

- Get someone else to double check it if at all possible. Pictures of the date pages can be sent via text / email if no one else is present on site to help you
- Ask to speak to the rider. If the rider is a junior it is essential that their Team Manager and parent or guardian is present with the Club Safeguarding Officer if possible or another official
- Explain the issue and the steps that will follow
- Remain calm, the rider may be upset. A sympathetic attitude is best
- Inform scorers if you are at an official competition that the flu vac failure has led to the horse being disqualified

Useful Resources

- BRC Handbook (Appendix 23- Flu Vaccination Check Table)
- BRC Website
- Online Flu Vac Checker (in the downloads section of the website)

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