

5 August 2026

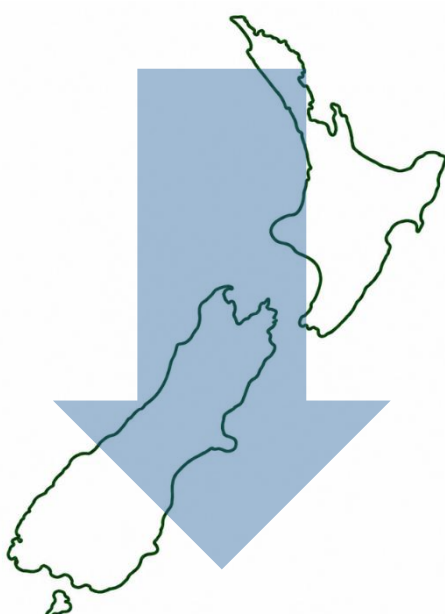
STRANGLES DIRECTIVES – REQUIREMENTS FOR INTERISLAND HORSE TRANSPORT

This applies to registered Thoroughbreds, Standardbreds and their progeny, and their companion horses consigned to training or breeding properties – in cases when the horse is: not known to have contracted Strangles; has not been located at an affected or suspected property; and is not known to have had any credible exposure to a horse that has had Strangles.

This also applies to South Island racehorses, breeding horses and their companion horses returning from a North Island visit.

TRAVEL FROM NORTH ISLAND TO SOUTH ISLAND – **NO KNOWN EXPOSURE**

Requirements	Timing
Monitor horse health	For the 5 days prior to transport
Record rectal temperatures twice daily – at least 8 hours apart	For the 5 days prior to transport
Arrange for collection of a nasopharyngeal or nasal swab and submit to accredited veterinary diagnostic laboratory for PCR testing.	Collected and submitted to an accredited veterinary diagnostic laboratory 3-5 days prior to transport
Documentation: All recording temperatures and laboratory results must be detailed on the RIB North Island to South Island Strangles Travel Declaration. The Declaration must be fully completed, signed and must accompany the horse AND be emailed together with the result of laboratory PCR test result of the nasal swab to vet@rib.org.nz	
Notify any confirmed case to vet@rib.org.nz	



The horse may travel south only if:

- ✓ Travel approval has been granted by the RIB
- ✓ Recorded temperatures over past 5 days not higher than 38.5°
- Horse is not showing signs consistent with Strangles, including fever, nasal discharge, enlarged or painful lymph nodes, abscessation, difficulty swallowing, or other suspicious clinical signs
- ✓ Negative PCR result for Strangles from laboratory testing of the nasopharyngeal or nasal swab
- ✓ Completed Declaration emailed with lab test result to vet@rib.org.nz and provided to travel with the horse

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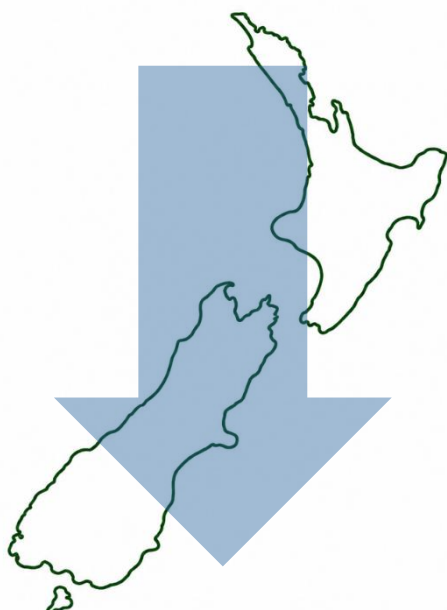
This applies to registered Thoroughbreds, Standardbreds and their progeny, and their companion horses consigned to training or breeding properties – in cases when the horse: is known to have had contracted Strangles; has been located at an affected or suspected property; or may have had any credible exposure to a horse that has had Strangles.

Important – travel will only be permitted if approved by the RIB.

TRAVEL FROM NORTH ISLAND TO SOUTH ISLAND – A KNOWN OR POTENTIAL EXPOSURE

Requirements	Timing
Monitor horse health	For the 5 days prior to transport
Record rectal temperatures twice daily – at least 8 hours apart	For the 5 days prior to transport
Arrange a sample collection from an endoscopically guided guttural pouch lavage and submit to an accredited veterinary diagnostic laboratory for PCR testing.	Collected and submitted to an accredited diagnostic laboratory 3-5 days prior to transport
Documentation: All recording temperatures and laboratory results must be detailed on the RIB North Island to South Island Strangles Travel Declaration . The Declaration must be fully completed, signed and must accompany the horse AND be emailed together with the result of laboratory PCR test of the guttural pouch lavage to vet@rib.org.nz	
Notify any confirmed case to vet@rib.org.nz	

The horse may travel south only if:



- ✓ Travel approval has been granted by the RIB
- ✓ Recorded temperatures over past 5 days not higher than 38.5°
- Horse is not showing signs consistent with Strangles, including fever, nasal discharge, enlarged or painful lymph nodes, abscessation, difficulty swallowing, or other suspicious clinical signs
- ✓ Negative PCR result for Strangles from laboratory testing of the guttural pouch lavage
- ✓ Completed Declaration emailed with lab test result to vet@rib.org.nz and provided to travel with the horse

Practical travel checklist

- Do not assume travel is permitted from an infected premises.
- If in doubt - contact the RIB before making travel arrangements.
- Confirm whether the horse, companion pony or premises is subject to a directive or movement condition, and whether the horse is recovered, in-contact, from an affected or suspected property, or has had any credible exposure.
- Complete the required health declaration.
- Provide 5 days of temperature records.
- Arrange sampling for PCR testing through your attending veterinarian and ensure the sample is submitted to an appropriate laboratory.
- Confirm destination isolation arrangements if required.
- Do not travel until RIB permissions or conditions have been confirmed.

Notes:

1. To protect the South Island from the introduction of Strangles, all movements from the North Island to the South Island require prior approval from the Racing Integrity Board.
2. If inter-island travel is scheduled to commence before the PCR result is received, this is permissible provided that arrangements have been made for receiving property to keep the horse isolated until a negative PCR result is obtained.
3. **From 6 August 2026, there are no requirements for horses travelling from the South Island to the North Island**

RIB contact

RIB Veterinary Services Manager — vet@rib.org.nz or 0272 850 951.

Disclaimer

This travel guidance is intended as general industry guidance. It does not replace any case-specific direction, permission or condition issued by the RIB. Requirements may vary according to veterinary advice, risk assessment and applicable Rules of Racing.