HARNESS RACING NEW ZEALAND
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STRANGLES ADVISORY – NEW PLYMOUTH OUTBREAK
30 October 2026

Harness Racing New Zealand (HRNZ) wishes to advise participants that a new outbreak of Strangles has been identified in the New Plymouth area.

The Racing Integrity Board (RIB) has notified affected trainers, and the New Plymouth Training Facility is currently closed while the outbreak is being managed.

HRNZ urges all trainers to remain vigilant, particularly those who have recently travelled with horses or had contact with horses from other properties, and to maintain good biosecurity practices to minimise the risk of further spread.

Biosecurity and Monitoring

Trainers are reminded to:

- Monitor horses for signs of illness, including elevated temperatures, nasal discharge, coughing, swollen lymph nodes or reduced appetite.
- Take and record horses' temperatures twice daily, particularly those that may have been exposed.
- Immediately isolate any horse showing signs of illness and contact their veterinarian.
- Keep potentially exposed horses separate and avoid unnecessary horse movements.
- Maintain good hygiene practices, including cleaning and disinfecting equipment, vehicles, stables and yards.

Reporting Requirements
Suspected or confirmed cases of Strangles must be reported promptly to the RIB at **vet@rib.org.nz**.

Horses showing signs of illness must not attend race meetings, trials or other racing activities.

Any participants involved in the current outbreak must follow veterinary and RIB directions, including any testing, clearance or movement requirements.

Ongoing Updates
HRNZ will continue to monitor the situation alongside the RIB and NZTR. At this stage, no additional HRNZ-wide movement restrictions have been introduced. Participants will be advised if this changes.

We thank all participants for their continued vigilance and cooperation in helping protect the health and welfare of our horses.

Further information and biosecurity advice is available on the HRNZ Strangles Information Page.

Harness Racing New Zealand