

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Q1. What is glanders and why is it a concern?

Glanders is a highly contagious and often fatal disease of equines (horses, mules, donkeys) caused by the bacterium *Burkholderia mallei*. It can also affect other animals and humans, making it a serious public health concern under the **One Health** framework.

### Q2. Why has DAHD revised the National Action Plan on Glanders?

The revised plan strengthens surveillance, diagnostic capacity, response measures, and stakeholder engagement, incorporating recent experiences and scientific inputs to make the program more robust and effective.

### Q3. What are the main objectives of the revised plan?

- Early detection and timely reporting of cases.
- Containment and eradication of outbreaks.
- Prevention of disease spread through quarantine and movement controls.
- Training and capacity building of veterinary and field staff.
- Stakeholder awareness and participation.

### Q4. Which areas of India are most vulnerable?

Equine-dense states and those with history of glanders outbreaks are considered high-risk. Surveillance will particularly focus on regions with horse fairs, pilgrimages, and heavy interstate animal movement.

### Q5. How will implementation be ensured?

State Animal Husbandry Departments, in coordination with veterinary universities and ICAR institutes, will implement the plan. DAHD will provide **technical guidance, oversight, and financial support** where required.

### Q6. What role does ICAR–National Research Centre on Equines (NRCE) play?

ICAR–NRCE, Hisar, serves as the national reference laboratory for glanders. It supports advanced diagnostics, epidemiology, and research, including vaccine development.

**Q7. How will horse owners and breeders be involved?**

Awareness and training programs will educate equine owners, breeders, and handlers about glanders symptoms, the importance of testing, and compliance with control measures, including movement restrictions.

**Q8. What happens if an animal tests positive?**

Positive animals are to be **humanely euthanized as per prescribed SOPs**, followed by disinfection of premises. Owners may be eligible for compensation as per provision under ASCAD component of LHDCP @ 50:50 sharing between the Centre and the State.

**Q9. How does this plan align with public health and One Health principles?**

Since glanders is zoonotic, preventing its spread in equines also protects human health. The plan integrates veterinary, public health, and research institutions under the **One Health approach**.

**Q10. When does the revised plan come into effect?**

The plan takes **immediate effect**, and all States/UTs have been requested to align their surveillance and control measures with the revised framework.

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