Your horse has been found to be passing (“shedding”) salmonella bacteria in its manure. Shedding of salmonella bacteria is quite common even among healthy horses. Situations associated with stress (transportation, hot/cold weather, surgical procedures, and antibiotic treatments) make shedding more likely. Horses with a previous or recent history of intestinal diseases (especially colic and diarrhea) are at high risk of shedding salmonella.

**Symptoms**

Often horses will experience health problems related to episodes of salmonella shedding. However, salmonella can cause diarrhea and other illnesses, particularly in horses that are immunocompromised.

**Reducing Risks**

Because salmonella can cause diarrhea and illness in horses, other animals, and people (particularly young children, sick or immunocompromised individuals, and seniors), the University of Minnesota Veterinary Medical Center (VMC) suggests a few prudent measures to help reduce the risk of infection to other animals or people in contact with your horse. These guidelines should be followed for at least six weeks after your horse returns home:

- **Try to reduce the stress on your horse as much as possible.** Hard exercise, long-distance transportation, competitions, and elective veterinary procedures should be avoided.
- **Ensure that other horses do not come into contact with manure from this horse.** This may mean keeping the horse in a separate paddock or stall, cleaning its stall with separate (or subsequently disinfected) equipment, and properly disposing of the manure.
- **Wear disposable gloves when working with the horse.**
- **Carefully wash your hands when you are finished.**
- **Minimize contact between this horse and children.**

**Surveillance**

The University of Minnesota Veterinary Medical Center is a state-of-the-art medical facility dedicated to providing the best veterinary care possible to our patients. As part of our veterinary services, we run an infection control program to control and prevent infections in our patients during hospitalization. The main goal of this program is to develop an early warning system for detection of disease-causing organisms and help prevent the potential spread of disease. This surveillance system entails performing bacterial cultures on samples from patients and animal housing areas. A primary concern for our surveillance activities is for infectious organisms passed in manure, like salmonella.

*This fact sheet is meant to provide basic information. For specific health concerns please contact your physician or veterinarian. Updated 2009.*