

Contagious Equine Metritis (CEM)



What is contagious equine metritis (CEM)?

- Sexually transmitted disease caused by the bacteria *Taylorella equigenitalis*
- Can cause infertility in mares which can have significant economic consequences
- Stallions can be carriers and spread the bacteria
- Undiagnosed horses are the primary source of outbreaks. A single undiagnosed carrier can have a widespread impact.

What you can do to keep your horse healthy:

- Federal legislation requires stallions and mares over two years of age imported from most countries to undergo post-entry quarantine to keep the U.S. free of this Foreign Animal Disease.
- The Center for Equine Health is the only approved CEM quarantine facility in California.

Signs

- Mares may show no signs or have mucopurulent vaginal discharge
- Infertility
- Stallions do not show signs but can be carriers

Transmission

Live cover breeding
Contaminated equipment
Semen collected for artificial insemination

Treatment

Topical ointment
Treatment alone is not 100% effective
Important to identify carriers and trace exposed animals

**If your horse needs medical care, contact the Large Animal Clinic at (530) 752-1393.*