

# Strangles



## What is strangles?

- Highly contagious bacterial disease caused by *Streptococcus equi equi*
- Characterized by swelling of the lymph nodes and the formation of abscesses, primarily in the head and neck
- Occurs worldwide and is the most common infectious agent identified in horses 6 to 10 years of age

## What you can do to keep your horse healthy:

- Minimize exposure risks. Horses newly introduced onto a farm should be observed and temperature monitored twice a day for at least two weeks before being housed with resident horses. Horses with temperatures over 101.5°F should be isolated. Vaccination is recommended on farms where strangles is a persistent problem or there is a high risk of exposure.

### Signs

Lethargy  
Anorexia  
Fever  
Nasal discharge  
Swollen lymph nodes  
Labored breathing  
Difficulty swallowing

### Transmission

Horse-to-horse contact  
Drinking contaminated water  
Making contact with infected material or equipment

### Treatment

Rest  
Supportive care  
Antibiotics

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



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