

What is Strangles?

- Strangles is an **extremely contagious, potentially deadly condition** of the upper respiratory tract caused by the bacteria *Streptococcus equi*
- It is the **most common infectious disease in the UK and worldwide**
- It can effect any equine regardless of **breed, age, gender or underlying health condition**

Infection

- Strangles is spread by bodily fluids - **it is NOT an airborne disease**
- Equines can cough or snort infected material **several feet**
- **Nearly 100% of equines in an exposed herd may be infected**
- **Up to 10% of equines who get strangles will die**

Signs of Strangles

- A dull demeanour with a temperature **38.5° and above**
- **Trouble swallowing and loss of appetite**
- **Thick** nasal discharge
- **Swollen lymph nodes** around the head and **abscesses** on lymph nodes
- **Difficulty breathing** (hence the name 'strangles') and a cough

Prevention

- Quarantine and screen new equines to a yard: **test on arrival**
- Guttural pouch wash to identify carriers. **10% will become carriers after having strangles**
- **Strangles vaccine:** if the whole yard is prepared to use it, it can help reduce the chance of **infection and severity** of symptoms. **It is not a replacement for other biosecurity measures**
- Be cautious when travelling and at events. **If your equine is unwell, avoid travel and mixing**