

Contagious Caprine Pleuropneumonia

What is contagious caprine pleuropneumonia and what causes it?

Contagious caprine pleuropneumonia, or CCPP, is a highly contagious respiratory disease of goats, and is considered one of the most severe diseases for this species. Infected animals become very sick and most will die. The disease is caused by the bacteria *Mycoplasma capricolum* subspecies *capripneumoniae*.

Two similar organisms, *M. mycoides* subsp. *capri* and *M. mycoides* subsp. *mycoides* large-colony type, can cause a disease in small ruminants that resembles CCPP. Although it occurs much less commonly and has somewhat different signs.

CCPP occurs in Africa, Asia, and the Middle East; the disease has never been found in North America.

What animals get contagious caprine pleuropneumonia?

CCPP primarily affects goats. Sheep may be affected in CCPP outbreaks affecting mixed goat and sheep herds. Some species of captive exotic ruminants (i.e., Nubian ibex, Laristan mouflon, gerenuk) have been found to be affected.

How can my animal get contagious caprine pleuropneumonia?

CCPP is highly contagious and spread by inhalation of infectious respiratory droplets (**aerosol**). Chronic carriers may exist, but this remains unproven; some goats may be infected with the bacteria without showing signs of illness.

How does contagious caprine pleuropneumonia affect my animal?

As the name suggests, CCPP causes severe respiratory disease in affected goats. Signs of disease may include a very high fever (106°F [41°C]), lethargy, unwillingness to eat, violent coughing, and difficulty breathing. Infected animals may have a frothy nasal discharge and stringy saliva. Death generally occurs within 7 to 10 days, but can be as quick as 2 to 3 days. Some animals may have long term infection with a persistent cough, nasal discharge and debilitation. The disease is often fatal; death rates in herds can be as high as 80%.

Can I get contagious caprine pleuropneumonia?

No. Humans are not at risk of developing contagious caprine pleuropneumonia.

Who should I contact if I suspect contagious caprine pleuropneumonia?

Contact your veterinarian immediately. Contagious caprine pleuropneumonia is not currently found in the U.S.; suspicion of disease requires immediate attention.

How can I protect my animals from contagious caprine pleuropneumonia?

CCPP is most likely to enter a country by an infected animal. The disease is controlled by quarantine, movement controls and slaughter of infected and exposed animals. Thorough cleaning and disinfection of the premise is also very important.

Prevention involves quarantining any new introductions or returning animals to the farm for several weeks before introducing them into the herd, especially if the goats came from countries known to have the disease.

For More Information

CFSPH Technical Fact Sheets. Contagious caprine pleuropneumonia at <http://www.cfsph.iastate.edu/DiseaseInfo/>

Merck Veterinary Manual. Contagious Caprine Pleuropneumonia at <http://www.merckvetmanual.com/mvm/index.jsp?cfile=htm/bc/121503.htm&word=contagious%2ccapriner%2cupneumonia>

