

PUBLIC NOTICE

AGRICULTURE

DIVISION OF ANIMAL HEALTH

Notice of Call for Applications

New Jersey Department of Agriculture Call for Applications to Obtain State Approval to Open and Operate a Contagious Equine Metritis Quarantine Facility in New Jersey

Take notice that, pursuant to the authority provided at N.J.A.C. 2:5-5.1(c), the New Jersey State Veterinarian and the New Jersey Department of Agriculture issue the following request for applications.

The New Jersey Department of Agriculture (NJDA), Division of Animal Health (DAH) is seeking applications for the opening and operation of a Contagious Equine Metritis (CEM) quarantine facility in the State. The State of New Jersey is not required to have a CEM quarantine facility, nor is the State required to operate any such facility. However, any facility operating within the State must meet applicable Federal guidelines governing CEM and CEM quarantine facilities, and the operation of such facilities is subject to NJDA and USDA oversight.

The required application to NJDA requests NJDA and USDA approval to commence operation of a privately owned and operated CEM facility at a specific location. Presently, there is one such NJDA-licensed CEM quarantine facility in New Jersey. NJDA has determined that our State is best served by the approval and opening of one or two additional CEM facilities. With regard to this call for applications, NJDA will consider a proposed CEM facility that is ready, willing

and able to accept and test imported stallions and mares or mares only; however, NJDA in its discretion may approve applications for stallions and mares as a “mare only” facility.

The USDA-APHIS-VS regulates animal trade and import, including that of horses. The Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Title 9, Section 93.301 covers the testing protocols for horses imported from CEM-affected countries. Qualifying horses from such countries must complete required CEM import testing protocols at a state-approved quarantine facility. NJDA maintains a written agreement with USDA-APHIS-VS that details the state’s responsibility for enforcement of the required CEM testing facility protocol conditions, including a set of prerequisite criteria that an approved CEM import quarantine facility must meet.

An approved CEM import quarantine facility must adhere to 9 CFR 93.301, VS Guidance document 13406.3, and applicable state laws and regulations. Horses imported for permanent entry into the United States from regions VS considers affected with CEM must first complete a Federal import quarantine. After which, sexually intact horses over 731 days of age must be tested and treated for CEM in an approved facility prior to release for entry to the United States. These approved facilities in New Jersey are supervised by NJDA veterinarians and animal health technicians.

If interested, please review the USDA VS Guidance 13406.3, available online at: https://www.aphis.usda.gov/import_export/animals/downloads/cem-testing-of-imported-horses-at-approved-quarantine-facilities.pdf. This guidance document describes the criteria for and the important management practices necessary to operate a CEM quarantine facility in New Jersey. An approved facility owner, operator (if different), and attending personnel must read

and agree to carry out the provisions at 9 CFR 93.301 and the recommendations in VS Guidance 13406.3 that pertain to the quarantine of horses from CEM-affected regions or countries.

Before application submission, please ensure your proposal fulfills the requirements defined at 9 CFR 93.301, which is available online at: <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-9/chapter-I/subchapter-D/part-93/subpart-C/section-93.301>.

Specific requirements for the proposed facility include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. The facility must accept mares and may also accept stallions.
 - a. If the new CEM facility is approved by NJDA to accept stallions, it must have at minimum two test mares and be ready, willing, and able to accept and test imported stallions.
 - i. Test mares will be identified, tested, and treated in accordance with 9 CFR and VS guidance 13406.3.
2. The facility must be an enclosed, sound, permanent building with surfaces (walls, floors, and ceilings) able to withstand frequent cleaning and disinfection without deteriorating.
 - a. The quarantine building must be a separate unit from where other equine are kept on the property.
3. Stalls must be arranged in a way where individual imported CEM horses can be separated from each other, either by an empty stall, an empty area where horses cannot touch each other, or by a solid wall that is at least eight feet (2.4 m) high.
 - a. Imported horses must be isolated from other horses and common traffic.
 - b. Nose-to-nose contact between imported horses may not occur.
 - c. The facility must be able to segregate the horses at all times.

- d. The location of live cover must be acceptable for all weather use and can be cleaned and disinfected or sit fallow until the testing is complete.
 - e. There must be no other horses in the path of the stallion walking from the stall to live cover area.
- 4. If approved for stallions, the facility must keep test mares on site. Test mares must remain in the CEM quarantine facility while being used for test breeding until they meet all release requirements.
- 5. The facility must be large enough to accommodate the number of horses indicated on the application form, which must accurately state the number of horses that the facility can currently accommodate. The facility must accommodate multiple CEM horses at one time.
- 6. The facility must be secure and protect against animal escape or unauthorized removal and prevent other animals or unauthorized persons from entering.
- 7. Drainage from the quarantine must not flow into parts of the premises containing other horses.
- 8. An accredited veterinarian and State Animal Health Official (SAHO) must have access to the facility at any time necessary to conduct required testing or quarantine observation procedures.
- 9. The quarantine area must be built with materials that facilitate cleaning and disinfection. A supply of appropriate disinfectant should be maintained by the facility.

10. The facility must be able to meet the CEM quarantine demand of the general public in a timely manner, all year round, at levels consistent with the maximum number of horses approved to be housed at the facility.

The application process may include an on-site facility inspection by NJDA and USDA, and State personnel must inspect and re-approve all state-approved CEM facilities annually, at a minimum.

The application form is available online at <https://www.nj.gov/agriculture/divisions/ah/diseases/contagiousquinemetritis.html>. A sample copy of the license that will be awarded to the successful applicant and is also available online at <https://www.nj.gov/agriculture/divisions/ah/diseases/contagiousquinemetritis.html>. The license recites the terms and conditions that will apply to the license holder's operation of the approved CEM quarantine facility.

For general inquiries, please contact state.veterinarian@ag.nj.gov.

Completed applications should be submitted as directed on the application form.

Completed applications must be received by January 3, 2025. Thereafter, applications will be reviewed and applicants will be notified as determinations are made.