



Update and recommendations regarding Canine Influenza

The canine influenza virus (H3N2) is unfortunately becoming more prevalent in our county. Beginning in July 2021, in West Los Angeles, we began to see cases again and now there are confirmed cases in Pasadena/South Pasadena and Covina. The officials are estimating that there are over 1000 cases already.

We are now recommending vaccinating your dogs for this virus

Where did this virus come from?

Los Angeles County experienced a minor outbreak in 2017, and we began recommending vaccinating at that time. However, there were no further cases reported until this summer. The authorities believe this virus originated from rescue dogs imported from South Korea and China.

What are the symptoms?

Most common symptoms appear 2-3 days after exposure. They include a persistent cough, thick nasal discharge with a fever of 104 and higher. They may also be sneezing, be lethargic and/or have loss of appetite. Some dogs have NO symptoms but can still transmit the virus to other dogs. If your pet has symptoms, keep them away from other dogs and contact us. Most cases resolve with supportive care within 2-3 weeks. However, about 10% of cases have died from pneumonia.

Where is the risk the highest for my dog to get this disease?

Most cases have been in dogs that have been to a boarding or daycare facility. Because transmission is airborne, your dog can also be exposed while on walks in your neighborhood, the dog park or even going to the groomer.

What can I do to stop the spread of this outbreak?

We are now recommending vaccinating your dogs against Canine Influenza Virus H3N2. If your pet does become ill, it is recommended that they be isolated at home for 28 days from the first day of illness. Pets exposed to confirmed or suspected cases should be kept on a home quarantine and observed for symptoms for 14 days. Do not let your pet share its food bowls, leash, toys and other supplies with other dogs. We recommend having your pet fully

vaccinated before boarding, going to the dog park, day care or going to other dog group activities.

How soon can my dog get immunity with the vaccine?

- If your pet has had the vaccine before, and it hasn't been more than 18 months, your dog just needs one vaccine to booster their immunity. Two weeks later, they are protected.
- If your dog has never been vaccinated or it's been more than 18 months since their last Canine Flu vaccine, they will need to start from the beginning with a shot. Then, they will need a booster as soon as 3 weeks after the 1st vaccine. But they still don't have immunity or protection for another 2 weeks after that. So, the SOONEST your dog will be protected is 5 weeks from the initial vaccine.
- After the initial 2 boosters, the vaccine is then given yearly.

Can my dog be tested for this virus?

Yes. It is very difficult, if not impossible, to diagnose what pathogen is causing your pet's illness without further testing. There is a test for Influenza Virus alone. But our lab also offers a more comprehensive panel that also tests for pathogens of the respiratory tract like adenovirus, parainfluenza, coronavirus, pneumovirus, Bordatella and Mycoplasma. Results can take 4-5 days.

Is this contagious to other pets or humans?

Thankfully, there is no proof that humans can pick up this virus from our dogs. There are some reported cases in cats, but it's not common. There is no vaccine for cats. If you have a dog suspected of having canine flu, then discourage intimate contact between them and your cats (no snuggling or naps together). Symptoms in cats can include runny nose, congestion, drooling and lethargy.

Looking for more information?

Visit the CDC website:

<https://www.cdc.gov/flu/other/canine-flu/keyfacts.html>

Visit the LA County Public Health website:

<http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/vet/influenzacanine.htm>

Visit the AVMA website:

<https://www.avma.org/resources-tools/animal-health-and-welfare/canine-influenza>