

How does canine flu (CIV H3N2 and H3N8) spread?



Canine flu spreads

- Through contact with infected dogs
 - Dogs that do not show signs of canine flu can still spread the virus to other dogs
- Airborne exposure
 - Coughing
 - Sneezing
 - Runny nose
- Contact with contaminated items
 - Food and water bowls
 - Toys



Prevention is the best protection

Just as you take steps to protect yourself from the flu every year, it is also important to help protect your dog.

Vaccines for both types of canine flu have recently been developed to help protect dogs against this newly emerging disease.

Vaccinating against canine flu can be beneficial by

- Helping control infection
- Reducing the spread of infection
- Reducing common symptoms
- Reducing the risk of developing more severe disease, such as pneumonia

Talk to your veterinarian for more information about this and other preventable canine diseases.

References:

1. Dubovi EJ, Njaa BL. Canine influenza. *Vet Clin Small Anim.* 2008;38:827-835.
2. Crawford PC, Dubovi EJ, Castleman WL, et al. Transmission of equine influenza virus to dogs. *Science.* 2005;310:482-485.

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What you need to know
to help protect
your dog

CANINE INFLUENZA VIRUS
(CIV) H3N2 and H3N8 (CANINE FLU)



What is canine flu (CIV H3N2 and H3N8)?

Canine flu is a contagious viral disease that can spread quickly among dogs. It affects a dog's respiratory system and may cause serious illness. In the US, outbreaks of canine flu (CIV H3N8) were first reported in 2004 and the virus has since spread across the country.^{1,2}

In the spring of 2015, a severe outbreak of respiratory disease occurred in dogs in the Chicago area. The causative agent of this outbreak was determined to be a different type of canine influenza virus, H3N2. Prior to this the virus was known to affect dogs in SE Asia but had not been detected in dogs in the United States. Like the H3N8 virus this quickly spread to other areas.

Why do dogs get canine flu?

Dogs have no natural immunity from the flu virus and dogs of any age or breed can get the disease. Similar to human flu, it is contagious and is usually spread when dogs come into contact with infected dogs in places such as dog parks, at dog shows, boarding kennels, grooming facilities, veterinary hospitals, and humane shelters.

What are the signs of canine flu?



It is important to know and recognize the signs of infection both in your dog and in other dogs that your dog may come into contact with. Most cases of canine flu are mild and include signs such as:

- A persistent cough
- Sneezing
- Runny nose
- Fever
- Loss of appetite
- Loss of energy

Some dogs may develop a more severe disease, which could develop into pneumonia. If you notice any of these signs, it is important that you contact your veterinarian.

Is your dog at risk?

All dogs can get canine flu and can be at risk of exposure to the flu virus, especially in places where dogs gather.

Does your dog go to:

- Dog parks
- Dog day care
- Boarding kennels
- Grooming facilities
- Dog shows or events

If you checked any of the above, it is important that you take steps to help protect your dog from canine flu. Talk to your veterinarian about available preventative options such as vaccination.

