



CANINE INFLUENZA VIRUS



City of Chicago
Mayor Rahm Emanuel

Chicago Animal Care and Control

FACT SHEET: *CIV INFORMATION and FAQs*

Canine Influenza Virus "CIV" is a highly contagious virus that has been affecting dogs in the Chicagoland area since February of 2015. According to laboratory scientists at Cornell University and the University of Wisconsin, testing results indicate that the outbreak is being caused by a virus closely related to Asian strains of influenza A H3N2 viruses, currently in wide circulation in southern Chinese and South Korean dog populations since being identified in 2006. This is the first confirmation of this strain being detected in the United States. There is no evidence that it can be transmitted to humans. H3N2 has caused infection and respiratory illness in cats in Asia, but there has been no evidence that this has occurred in the United States.

Symptoms of Canine Influenza Virus: CIV can cause high fever, loss of appetite, coughing, nasal discharge, and lethargy in dogs. Symptoms may be more severe in cases caused by the H3N2 virus. Some infected dogs may not show symptoms at all. Most dogs that are infected will show mild or moderate signs of respiratory illness including cough, nasal discharge, and fever 2-4 days after exposure. A small percentage of dogs will develop more severe clinic signs and could develop pneumonia. Very few dogs in the Chicago area have died as a result of the outbreak.

How Canine Influenza Virus is Spread: This is an extremely contagious virus that can live on surfaces and on clothing for up to 24 to 48 hours. Dogs infected with influenza are can be contagious to other dogs for up to 21 days after infection but they may be contagious before they begin to show signs of illness. The length of time dogs are infectious is still being evaluated for this strain in this outbreak. Areas contaminated by virus can be successfully cleaned using most cleaning products.

What do I do if I suspect my pet has CIV? If your dog has symptoms consistent with CIV we recommend you keeping your pet isolated from other dogs and consulting your primary veterinarian immediately to develop a treatment plan. While the majority of dogs recover from CIV, if left untreated, the virus can progress to pneumonia and be more difficult to treat.

Can Chicago Animal Care and Control treat my dog for CIV? CACC does not provide veterinary services to privately owned animals. If your animal has recently been impounded at CACC, it is possible your animal may have been exposed to this virus. If you received an animal from CACC on or after April 15, 2015 through our adoption or redemption programs, and your animal became symptomatic within 7 days of leaving the shelter, contact CACC (should this be to contact 311 City Services) and we will provide you further instructions.

How can I help Chicago Animal Care and Control? CACC has temporarily halted our adoption program while we treat the outbreak at our shelter. In the meantime you can help in any of the following ways:

- Consider adoption through one of our many transfer and community partners including PAWS Chicago and the Anti-Cruelty Society.
- If you are an owner planning to relinquish your animal to an animal shelter and can wait to do so, that will help protect your dog as well as other dogs in the shelter.
- If you are a rescue group who can safely continue to pull animals without spreading infection to other dogs or new areas, please do!
- Sign up with your favorite rescue organization to volunteer or foster pets.

Help Break the Cycle of Transmission:

- Keep your dog away from coming into contact with other dogs.
- Avoid bringing your animal to dog parks, or other socialization situations, especially if your animal is CIV symptomatic.
- Contact your veterinarian as soon as you see symptoms of illness in your pet, and isolate your animal for 21 days after becoming symptomatic.

REDEMPTION NOTICE TO DOG OWNERS

Chicago Animal Care and Control is currently affected by the city-wide outbreak of the canine influenza virus H3N2. Due to the highly contagious nature of the virus, all dogs that enter CACC's facility are considered exposed. Exposed dogs may start to show clinical signs of the disease in as little as two (2) to seven (7) days. Exposed dogs that contract the virus may also start to spread the virus BEFORE showing signs of clinical disease. Therefore, it is essential that you follow these guidelines when taking your dog home.

1. **Monitor for clinical signs:** Coughing, sneezing, nasal discharge, lethargy, decreased appetite, and/or fever. Please call your veterinarian as soon as possible if they are showing /start showing clinical signs.
2. **Keep your dog separate from other dogs:** Even healthy-looking dogs may be spreading the virus.
 - a. **Healthy appearing dog: please keep your dog separate from other dogs for 7 days**
 - b. **Sick dogs:** Whether your dog is already sick or your dog becomes sick while at home, please keep your dog isolated for **at least 21 or longer until clinical signs have resolved.**
3. **When to contact your veterinarian:**
 - a. When clinical signs start
 - b. If your dog is going home sick
 - c. When at home your dog loses its appetite, becomes lethargic, or seems to be getting worse.
 - d. If you have any further questions about the canine influenza virus and your dog's exposure.
4. **Dogs going home on medication:**
 - a. Doxycycline, an antibiotic, has been prescribed for your dog showing signs of an upper respiratory infection. There is no antiviral to cure your pet of a viral infection, but the antibiotics will prevent or stop a secondary bacterial respiratory infection from turning into pneumonia.
 - b. **Give (1) tablet with food every 12 hours until gone.** Do not give with dairy products such as cheese or yogurt, as this will reduce the effectiveness of Doxycycline.
 - c. **Do not stop the medication at any time** unless told to by your veterinarian. Stopping medications too early may cause a re-occurring infection.
 - d. **Potential side effects:** may include vomiting and diarrhea. Please call your veterinarian if this occurs.
5. **Do not allow your dog to travel for one (1) week or at any time if sick.** Your dog must be tested for the H3N2 virus by your veterinarian before traveling.
6. **Consult attached FACT SHEET for more details, and visit www.adoptchicago.org for updates.**

If you have any questions contact: 311 and request a Pet Wellness Service Request be generated.

I HAVE RECEIVED AND UNDERSTAND THE INFORMATION CONTAINED ON BOTH SIDES OF THIS DOCUMENT

Animal Owner Signature _____

Date _____

CACC STAFF MAKE AND RETAIN COPY OF THIS DOCUMENT WITH REDEMPTION PAPERWORK