



CANINE INFLUENZA VIRUS



City of Chicago
Mayor Rahm Emanuel

Chicago Animal Care and Control
Sandra Alfred, Executive Director

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.