



Dog Influenza Frequently Asked Questions

What is dog flu?

Canine influenza is a highly contagious respiratory disease that is caused by canine influenza virus (CIV) Type A. There are 2 known strains in the United States: H3N8 and H3N2. Most unvaccinated dogs are susceptible to infection by both viruses.

Which dogs are at risk?

Any dog can be at risk for canine influenza regardless of age, sex, or breed. The more your dog socializes with other dogs or is around other dogs, the higher the risk of contracting canine influenza and other infectious respiratory diseases.

How is canine influenza spread?

Canine influenza spreads the same way as the common cold in humans.

Canine influenza viruses are most commonly spread through direct dog contact (sniffing, licking, nuzzling); through the air (coughing and sneezing); via contaminated surfaces (sharing water bowls or toys); or through contaminated humans (with viruses on their hands or clothing).

Where could my dog catch canine influenza?

Dogs that visit doggie day cares, boarding kennels, dog parks or attend dog events are at more risk. Because of how it is spread, any environment that has been in contact with the virus may be contaminated.

What are clinical signs of canine influenza?

- Coughing and retching
- Sneezing
- Nasal and/or ocular discharge
- Decreased appetite
- Lethargy
- Fever

How serious is canine influenza?

Most cases of canine influenza are mild. However, up to 20% of infected dogs will have moderate to severe illness.

How can dog flu be prevented?

Vaccination is a great way to prevent the spread of infectious diseases like dog flu. Call us today at 208-376-4433 to schedule an appointment for the dog flu vaccination for your pet.