

CANINE INFLUENZA VIRUS FACTS

- The virus was first reported in Florida in 2003.
- There have been no confirmed cases of CIV in New Hampshire. The virus is very prevalent in Colorado, New York, Florida and Pennsylvania.
- Incubation period is 2-4 days. The virus can live in the environment for up to 2 days and on hands and clothes for 24 hours.
- Only dogs get this virus. It is contagious from other dogs.
- Neither cats nor people can contract it.
- Young puppies and older dogs are most susceptible as well as dogs that frequent dog parks, dog shows, kennels, doggy day care and grooming facilities.
- Not all dogs will exhibit signs of the virus. About 80% of infected dogs will show symptoms.
- Symptoms include: lasting cough, low-grade fever, nasal discharge, +/- sneezing, lethargy, inappetence.
- 20% of dogs that show signs will show more severe symptoms which can include high fever and pneumonia.
- It spreads through:
 - Direct contact between dogs (licking/nuzzling)
 - Through the air (via coughing and sneezing)
 - On contaminated surfaces (toys, dog bowls, floors, kennels)
- Symptoms can be confused with bordatella (kennel cough).
- The vaccine is considered a “lifestyle” vaccine. Vaccines are available for dogs that are considered “at risk”. Initial vaccines require 2 doses given 3 weeks apart, then annually.
- Canine Influenza vaccines reduce the severity of symptoms and the duration of illness. Vaccines are neither preventative nor treatment for the Canine Influenza Virus. These vaccines are not 100% effective.
- The vaccine that is currently available is a bivalent vaccine that is protective for the H3N8 strain as well as the recently emerging H3N2 strain.
- The virus is easily killed by disinfectants and bleach solution.

Our Pet Health Information Series is provided as part of an on-going effort to improve our services and support the bond between you and your pet.