WHAT IS IT?
Canine influenza virus (CIV) causes respiratory symptoms similar to those experienced by humans with the flu, including coughing, sneezing, lethargy, fever, and discharge from the nose and eyes. There are two known influenza virus types that can infect and spread between dogs in the United States.

CIV H3N8

CIV H3N8 was first identified in racing greyhounds in Florida in 2004. Like the more recent CIV H3N2 outbreak, the virus quickly spread throughout the dog population in many states. The virus has been declared to be endemic in areas of Colorado, Florida, New York and Pennsylvania.

CIV H3N2

CIV H3N2 was first identified as the cause of a severe respiratory outbreak in Chicago, IL in early 2015. First diagnosed in Asia in 2007, CIV H3N2 is derived from an avian influenza virus that gained the ability to infect dogs. CIV H3N2 has been found in household dogs, dogs in shelters, and in breeding facilities.

IS THERE A VACCINE FOR CANINE INFLUENZA?

There are now vaccines available in the United States for both CIV H3N2 and CIV H3N8. Although both types of CIV are H3 viruses and share some traits in common, it is important to understand that they are different viruses requiring separate vaccinations. To date there is no information indicating that dogs vaccinated for one type will be protected against the other.
CANINE INFLUENZA

CAN CANINE INFLUENZA VIRUSES INFECT HUMANS?

There have been no known cases of these influenza viruses infecting humans.

REFERENCES:


CIV TRANSMISSION

CIV is spread via aerosolized respiratory secretions and contaminated objects. Most importantly, when dogs are infected with CIV they will go through an incubation period of approximately 2-5 days. During this time they may appear to be healthy; however, they can be shedding virus and are capable of infecting other dogs.

WHAT ARE THE CLINICAL SIGNS?

Clinical signs include coughing, sneezing, lethargy, fever, and discharge from the nose or eyes. Most dogs infected with CIV will experience a mild upper respiratory tract illness and recover within a few weeks. Dogs with more severe cases of influenza develop pneumonia and may often suffer from additional viral or bacterial infections. Mortality rates range from 5-10%.

WHAT SHOULD I DO?

If your dog becomes ill, please call your veterinarian. Many different viruses and bacteria can cause clinical signs similar to those of canine influenza. If your dog is ill, keep it away from other dogs. Vaccination for both strains of influenza is available. Isolation from other dogs may be up to four weeks.

REFERENCES: