



CANINE RESPIRATORY CORONAVIRUS

ABOUT THE DISEASE

The **canine respiratory coronavirus (CRCoV-2)** is a Group-2 coronavirus which is **NOT** related to the Group-1 coronavirus (CRCoV-1) which causes gastrointestinal symptoms. Please see the [Canine Coronavirus – Gastrointestinal](#) document for additional information.

CRCoV-2 can cause an acute respiratory infection, which is often part of a complex set of viruses/bacteria associated with canine infectious tracheobronchitis complex (CITBC/kennel cough). Virtually all the viral and bacterial respiratory pathogens in kennel cough cause similar clinical signs. Please see the [Kennel Cough](#) document for additional information.

Most canine patients have mild signs consisting of coughing, sneezing, and nasal discharge.

Like other respiratory pathogens, **CRCoV-2** is highly contagious and is most commonly spread by direct contact between canine patients or from respiratory secretions (coughing/sneezing).

Some patients are infected, but show no clinical signs, yet they are still contagious and can infect other dogs.

A small number of patients progress to pneumonia, especially if also infected with other respiratory viruses/bacteria.

The time from exposure to clinical disease is unknown but may be a few days. The number of days the patient can infect other dogs is also unknown. Patients that develop clinical signs will typically resolve after 1-2 weeks.

CRCoV-2 can also contaminate kennel surfaces, food and water bowls, collars and leashes, and the hands and clothing of people who handle infected dogs.

OBTAINING A DIAGNOSIS

Nasal or oral swabs can be sent to reference laboratories for respiratory disease screening panels. These panels will often differentiate between many viruses and bacteria.

More specific to the clinical signs, some patients may require chest x-rays (radiographs) or blood work to determine extent of respiratory involvement.

TREATMENT

There is no specific antiviral therapy for this infection. Treatment consists of supportive therapy based on clinical signs.

Isolation of infected dogs is recommended to minimize spread of infection. Although the quarantine time is unknown, it usually spans 3 weeks.

Currently, there is no vaccine for **CRCoV-2** to prevent this viral infection or reduce the clinical disease.

TIPS FOR SUCCESS

- Important management strategies for reducing the spread of infection include isolation of sick and exposed dogs.
- This virus is inactivated by routinely used disinfectants.
- Even though there is no vaccine for **CRCoV-2**, patients should be vaccinated against other respiratory pathogens.