



CANINE INFLUENZA VIRUS

ABOUT THE DISEASE

Canine influenza virus (CIV) is a highly contagious respiratory infection, which means that it can easily spread between canine patients. However, not all patients exposed will develop a clinical infection. Some canine patients will produce a strong immune response after exposure and will not develop signs of illness.

There are currently two recognized strains:

- H3N8 – The first virus to adapt to dogs, thought to come from the equine H3N8 influenza strain.
 - Also known as the “American Strain.”
- H3N2 – Thought to have originated from birds, closely related to Asian strain of H3N2.
 - Some data suggests limited transmission to feline patients.
 - Also known as the “Asiatic Strain.”

Both strains of **CIV** have been identified in the majority of American states.

In as little as 4-6 hours, patients may develop symptoms such as fever, listlessness, sneezing, nasal discharge, coughing and in rare cases severe pneumonia (<10%). If a patient develops symptoms, most will recover in 2-3 weeks.

CIV does not persist in the environment. Transmission occurs easily between patients, but generally requires direct contact with cough and nasal secretions. Not all patients with the virus will exhibit symptoms.

A flu vaccine by Nobivac® protects against both H3N8 and H3N2 strains which is boosted annually. But vaccination does not guarantee complete immunity in all patients.

There is no current evidence that **CIV** can infect humans.

OBTAINING A DIAGNOSIS

There are no routine in-house tests available for **CIV**.

Nasal swabs and blood samples can be sent for testing, but it may take 2-3 weeks for results.

Patients may require standard in-house blood testing or x-rays (radiographs) to determine severity of patient’s illness.

TREATMENT

There is no specific treatment for **CIV**. Management is focused on general supportive and symptomatic care while the patient hosts an immune response.

Severely afflicted patients may require hospitalization for intravenous (IV) fluid support, cough suppressants, and antibiotics to manage secondary pneumonia.

TIPS FOR SUCCESS

- Limit exposure, as lifestyle has a role in the risk of exposure.
 - Patients in day care, at parks, performance competitions, training classes, or kennels have a higher risk.
 - Do not allow socialization with other patients who have a known cough.
- Monitor patients closely for a degeneration in respiratory signs, as some will rapidly progress to severe pneumonia.