

Animal Health Update: Canine Influenza H3N2 Spreading In LA County
9.9.2021

Dear Animal Health Colleagues,

This Animal Health Alert provides updates on the current canine influenza outbreak in dogs in LA County. We will provide an update on the ongoing leptospirosis outbreak in dogs in LA County next week. Information regarding prevention and reporting of both diseases is still included below.

- **Canine influenza (CIV H3N2) outbreak.** On September 2, 2021, a veterinary clinic in South Pasadena notified our program that they were seeing an increase in dogs with symptoms compatible with canine influenza. The dogs had visited multiple dog daycare or boarding facilities in and around Pasadena. With the approval of the Pasadena Health Officer, we contacted veterinary clinics in Pasadena, requesting they report any potential cases. Other veterinary clinics also reported numerous cases this past week, helping us identify outbreaks involving at least seven additional dog day care or boarding facilities throughout the county, with some boarding/day care facilities reporting over 100 dogs becoming ill.
 - Since July 31, 2021, 55 confirmed cases and over 115 suspected cases of influenza in dogs have been individually reported to our program. Ten facility outbreaks have also been reported. Most of the cases have been associated with staying in boarding kennels or dog day care settings. However, there are a few reports of dogs contracting the infection after exposure to other dogs at local parks, grooming facilities, veterinary clinics, and neighborhoods.
 - CIV H3N2 is generally considered to be a non-zoonotic strain of influenza because no human cases have been reported during various outbreaks in the United States.
 - CIV H3N2 is spread through direct contact between dogs, or through droplet spread and aerosolization when infected dogs are housed indoors together, especially in poorly ventilated spaces. It can also be spread between dogs on the hands, clothing, and shoes of caretakers.
 - The recent increase in reported outbreaks and cases indicate the virus is spreading rapidly in the county, and all social dogs should be considered at risk of infection.
 - This is the largest outbreak of CIV H3N2 reported in Los Angeles County. The largest outbreak before now occurred in 2017 and involved 35 dogs.
<http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/vet/InfluenzaCanineH3N2.htm>

Prevention:

- **Vaccinate dogs for both canine influenza H3N2 and leptospirosis** before they enter boarding kennels, dog day care, dog parks, or engage in dog

group activities. These vaccinations are also advisable for dogs that may occasionally encounter other dogs or wildlife.

- **Isolation and Quarantine of affected dogs.**
 - Canine Influenza H3N2 – Since prolonged shedding of the virus has been documented, isolate affected dogs away from other pets, for 28 days. Quarantine exposed dogs for 14 days
 - Leptospirosis – Isolate infected dogs at home, away from other pets and people, until they have recovered and finished treatment, usually for about 2 weeks. Quarantine is not required for exposed dogs, but they should be monitored for clinical signs for 1-2 weeks

- **Kennel Management.** Require dogs to be vaccinated for CIV H3N2 and leptospirosis before entry. Prevent overcrowding. Check all pets daily for illness. Isolate sick dogs and have them examined and tested by a veterinarian. Keep kennels clean, dry, disinfected and well ventilated. When cleaning kennels, do not use forceful spray from a hose, as it may lead to droplets containing these germs to move through the air. Wash hands frequently. When cleaning a heavily contaminated environment, wear a mask, goggles, coveralls, and gloves that can be discarded or cleaned afterward.

Zoonotic Risk and Protecting People

- Canine H3N2 is not known to be zoonotic.
- Leptospirosis is zoonotic. The bacteria can infect people when their eyes, nose or mouth or breaks in their skin are exposed to the urine of an infected animal, or to water or splashes of water contaminated with the urine of an infected animal. People should wear gloves when handling infected dogs and wash hands afterward. When cleaning a heavily contaminated environment, wear a mask, goggles, coveralls, and gloves. No human cases related to this outbreak have been reported at this time.

Reporting. Report all confirmed or suspect cases of influenza or leptospirosis in pets using these forms, noting the name and dates of the facilities, parks, or other sites the dog went to prior to illness:

- **Animal Influenza report Form:**
<http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/vet/docs/Forms/InfluenzaAnimalForm.pdf>.
- **Canine Leptospirosis Report Form:**
<http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/vet/docs/Forms/LeptospirosisReportForm.pdf>.

- Email the form, and all related medical records and laboratory results to vet@ph.lacounty.gov or fax (213) 481-2375
- Report suspected outbreaks at dog facilities to vet@ph.lacounty.gov or 213-288-7060

Thank you for your assistance with helping control these outbreaks.

Sincerely,
Karen

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