

Canine Influenza Update

When did the current U.S. outbreak of H3N2 start? The outbreak began in the Chicago area in March, 2015. Geographic locations expanded in the months after the initial outbreak.

What strain of influenza caused this outbreak? The 2004 outbreak, which was caused by the H3N8 strain, has remained circulating in the U.S. dog population, causing sporadic disease since that time. However, the current outbreak has been identified as a H3N2 strain of influenza A virus. This strain is closely related to an Asian strain that is circulating in China and South Korea.

What about the new H3N2 influenza vaccines? These should reduce the clinical signs if a dog becomes infected. They will also decrease the time that a dog remains infective to other dogs.

Should I vaccinate my dog with the new vaccine? That's a decision for you and your veterinarian. Any place where dogs unknown to you congregate in large numbers increases the risk to your dog. These are places such as boarding kennels, shows, traveling, going to dog parks, training classes, and performance competitions. The virus does not survive well in the environment, so there is little risk of infection if a dog is mostly at home. For dog owners living in the affected areas, the best prevention is to minimize contact with other dogs. Consider avoiding places such as dog parks, dog day care, grooming facilities, boarding, training classes, and group gatherings. Walking your dog should be fine, but avoid socializing with other dogs.

What are signs of infection? Clinical signs range from subclinical infection, or mild fever and malaise to severe, life-threatening pneumonia; however, most clinically affected dogs have signs that are typical of kennel cough. Of approximately 1000 dogs recognized to be infected in the Chicago area, about five have died from the infection. If your dog lives in the affected areas and has respiratory signs, such as coughing, hacking, gagging or difficulty breathing, call your veterinarian before your appointment to let them know your dog has respiratory signs so that they can take appropriate precautions to minimize the possibility of exposing other pets at their facility. When you get to the clinic, leave your dog in the car and let them know you are there.

How is canine influenza diagnosed? There are tests available that detect influenza virus.

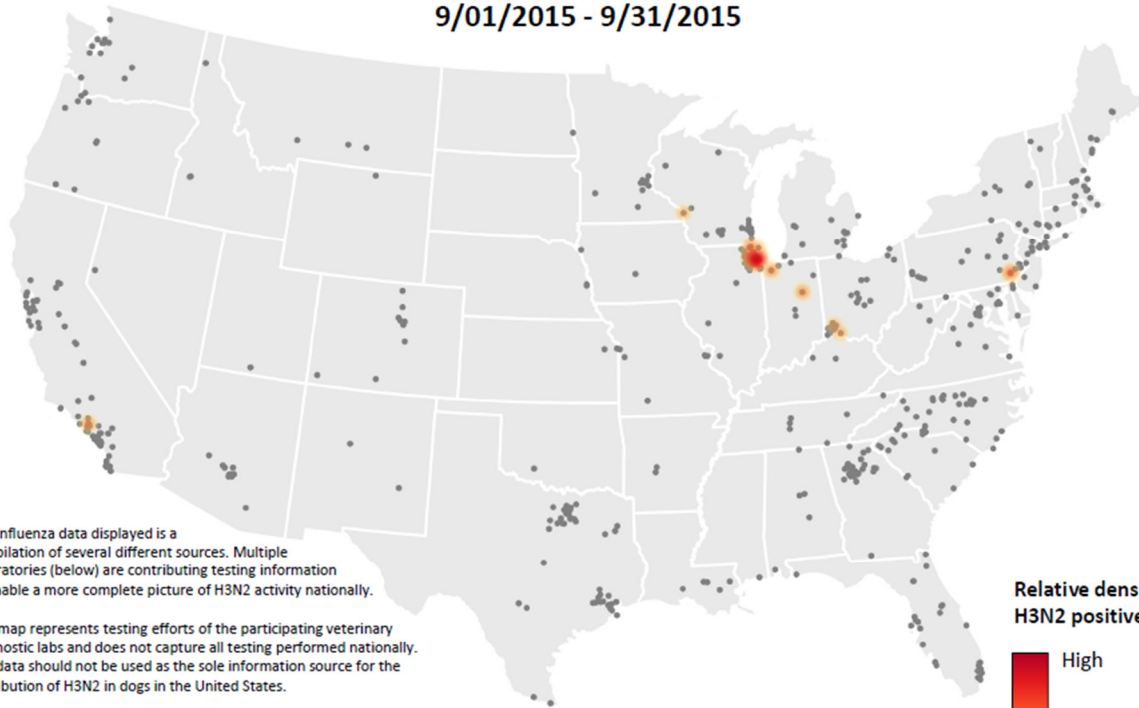
How are the dogs treated? The mild form requires minimal supportive treatment, as is the case with ANY mild upper-respiratory infection (kennel cough). Cough suppressants may be provided. Antibiotic therapy is restricted to high-risk patients. With the severe form, treatment is largely supportive. A rapid onset of disease (4-6 hours) is matched by an equally rapid improvement in clinical signs if treatment is instigated. Fluid support and broad-spectrum antimicrobials that cover both gram-positive and gram-negative bacteria are generally required.

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Canine Influenza Virus Monitoring Effort

September testing update

9/01/2015 - 9/31/2015



The influenza data displayed is a compilation of several different sources. Multiple laboratories (below) are contributing testing information to enable a more complete picture of H3N2 activity nationally.

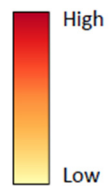
This map represents testing efforts of the participating veterinary diagnostic labs and does not capture all testing performed nationally. The data should not be used as the sole information source for the distribution of H3N2 in dogs in the United States.

Contributors:

Cornell University Animal Health Diagnostic Center
Idexx Reference Laboratories (national)
Antech Diagnostics (national)
Iowa State University Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory
Michigan State Univ. Diagnostic Center for Pop. and Animal Health
Ohio State Animal Disease Diagnostic Lab

South Dakota Animal Disease Research and Diagnostic Laboratory
Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory
University of Georgia Athens Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory
University of Minnesota Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory
Wisconsin Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory

Relative density of H3N2 positive tests



• Test Location