

FAQs for Pet Pros: Canine Influenza

What are possible signs to watch for in canine patients?

One of the challenges of identifying canine influenza is that the clinical signs in dogs look very similar to other diseases in the canine infectious respiratory disease complex (CIRDC).



Patients may demonstrate:

- Sneezing
- Coughing (dry or moist)
- Low appetite
- Low energy
- Nasal discharge
- Low-grade fever

What time of year is most common to see canine influenza?

Unlike the human flu, there is no recognized “season” for canine influenza. In fact, infections can occur any time of year and have been documented in 46 states.

What is the most common method of transmission?

The most common route of transmission is direct transmission through droplets or aerosolization of respiratory secretions. This can happen through coughing, sneezing, or even barking.

Five critical steps for planning a disinfection program for canine influenza in veterinary hospitals:

For any surface or area touched by humans in contact with an infected dog:

- Dilute Rescue by Virox: 2–8 oz of product per gallon of water (1:64–1:16 respectively)
- Pre-clean any heavily soiled areas
- Apply diluted solution until area thoroughly wet
- Let solution stand for **5 minutes of contact time**
- Wipe surface and let air dry



In addition, team members should follow appropriate hand-washing guidelines with warm soapy water, wear glove when handling suspect patients, and clothes and shoes should be washed in a diluted bleach solution as the virus can stay active on clothing for 24 hours.