

Canine Influenza Outbreak in Minnesota

Dear Westgate friends,

Please see the most recent update below from the Minnesota Board of Animal Health (MN BAH) regarding the confirmed outbreak of canine influenza virus:

[Press release: New guidance for pet owners to combat community spread of canine influenza virus](#)

We are seeing many dogs with respiratory infections and have implemented protocols at Westgate to limit the spread of disease. If you make an appointment for your dog with respiratory symptoms (coughing, sneezing, lethargy, discharge from the eyes and/or nose, fever, loss of appetite), you'll be asked to call from your car when you arrive at Westgate and wait with your pet in the car. Our staff will then give you further instructions.

During this respiratory disease outbreak, it's wise to:

1. Learn more about canine influenza virus in general: [Centers for Disease Control canine flu information](#)
2. Limit your dogs' exposure to other dogs.
3. Keep your dog away from other dogs if your dog has: fever, cough, runny nose or eyes, or any other signs of respiratory disease. Canine flu and other respiratory viruses can be spread for up to 30 days.

There is a canine influenza vaccine, but there is currently a nationwide shortage, so we are currently not able to start or boost this vaccine. We're keeping track of clients interested in giving this vaccine and will contact them when the vaccine is back in stock.

Canine flu vaccine requires 2 doses, given at least 2-4 weeks apart. Dogs are not considered protected until 1-2 weeks after the second vaccine is given.

For dogs who are already vaccinated, the vaccine limits the likelihood and severity of disease. Like other flu vaccines though, it cannot ensure complete prevention of infection.

We thank you for your continued trust and welcome your questions as we navigate through this respiratory disease outbreak.

Sincerely,

Westgate Pet Clinic