



DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Promoting and protecting health, well-being, self-sufficiency, and safety of all in Marin County.

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PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY

Atypical Canine Infectious Respiratory Disease (aCIRD)

This is an advisory for Marin County dog owners and veterinarians regarding the emergence of atypical canine infectious respiratory disease (aCIRD). The advisory offers guidance for dog owners and actions requested of veterinarians.

Background

In August 2023, the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) began receiving reports of an atypical canine infectious respiratory disease (aCIRD) in dogs. To date, ODA has received over 200 reports of aCIRD from Oregon veterinarians. The epidemiology suggests a shared infectious etiology, but the pathogen has not been identified.

A similar pattern was described in the [investigation of a respiratory syndrome of unknown etiology in dogs in New England](#). Preliminary findings from this investigation identified a [non-culturable, bacterial-like organism](#) similar to Mycoplasma in a subset of the respiratory samples.

On November 21, 2023, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (LACDPH) reported receiving multiple reports of aCIRD. California is one of at least 10 states with cases, which are estimated to be in the thousands nationwide.

MCPH is initiating passive surveillance to monitor community health related to this emerging canine disease. To date, there is no evidence of canine to human transmission, and no cases have been reported in Marin County.

Case Definition (Adopted from LACDPH)

Cases are currently defined as respiratory illness with the following characteristics and a negative canine respiratory PCR test panel:

- Chronic mild-moderate respiratory infection that lasts more than six weeks that is minimally or not responsive to antibiotics; or
- Chronic pneumonia that is minimally or not responsive to antibiotics; or
- Acute pneumonia that becomes severe in 24-36 hours.

Recommendations

Dog Owners

If a dog is experiencing cough, sneezing, nasal discharge, and lethargy (lack of energy), owners should take the following steps:

1. Contact their pet's veterinarian for evaluation, and, if indicated, testing and treatment.
2. Isolate sick dogs at home for 14 days after symptoms started.
3. Quarantine exposed dogs for 7 days and monitor for signs and symptoms of illness.
4. Clean regularly and disinfect surfaces. To disinfect, use an [EPA-registered disinfecting product](#) or a [bleach solution](#).
5. Dogs in isolation and quarantine should stay at home and away from day care, boarding kennels, grooming facilities, and dog parks.
6. If a dog becomes ill after being boarded or being in a facility, owners should take it to a veterinarian for evaluation and notify the facility about the illness.

Actions Requested of Providers

1. Consider aCIRD in differential diagnosis for canine respiratory illness. Perform [recommended diagnostic testing](#).
2. Consider submitting diagnostic testing thru the National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN) labs. Currently UC Davis is not accepting submissions. [Cornell Animal Health Diagnostic Center \(AHDC\)](#) is accepting specimens for diagnostic testing.
 - a. Contact the AHDC Veterinary Support Services (VSS) team for diagnostic consultations and/or to coordinate submissions. Call (607) 253-3900 or email vetsupport@cornell.edu.
3. Report suspected case of Atypical Canine Infectious Respiratory Disease (aCIRD) to MCPH. Suspected aCIRD cases include:
 - a. Respiratory illnesses with a negative PCR respiratory panel test result.
 - b. Deceased dogs that died from rapid and severe infectious respiratory disease with an unknown etiology.
 - c. Dogs with unusually prolonged/chronic respiratory signs and symptoms with unknown etiology and poorly responsive to antibiotics.
4. [Submit completed form](#) to MarinCD@marincounty.org OR fax to (415) 473-6002.