



## Notice of Canine Respiratory Illness

- A respiratory illness is affecting our canine patients in some areas of the United States
- Diagnostic testing has not yet confirmed the cause, but we are taking precautions across VCA
- We have no reason to believe this illness can cause disease in people or that it's caused by the COVID-19 virus
- We are currently advising the following:
  - Ensure respiratory vaccines are up to date for eligible dogs, including Canine Infectious Respiratory Disease (also known as Bordetella or kennel cough) and canine influenza virus
  - Limit your dog's time around other dogs, if possible. This may mean:
    - Reducing or suspending time at doggy daycare
    - Limiting time in boarding facilities and considering in-home pet-sitters
    - Avoiding dog parks and other public areas, when possible
    - Avoiding communal water bowls
- In the meantime, monitor your dog closely for any of the following respiratory signs:
  - Coughing
  - Productive Coughing (i.e. mucus from the mouth after coughing)
  - Sneezing
  - Nasal or ocular (eye) discharge
  - Rapid or labored breathing
  - Lethargy or weakness
  - Decreased appetite or anorexia (refusing food)
  - Fever
- If you notice any of the above signs in your dog, please schedule an appointment with us for further assessment and notify the hospital of respiratory signs in advance of your arrival so that precautions can be taken to prevent infecting other dogs.
- If an appointment cannot be scheduled within 2-3 days with your primary veterinary clinic, or if worsening or more severe signs are noted (such as excessive coughing, rapid or labored breathing, significant lethargy, or anorexia), please seek same-day care at an urgent care or emergency hospital facility.
- Please remember antibiotics should only be used under the direction of a veterinarian in response to clinical signs. Antibiotics do not prevent disease and should not be started in patients without signs indicating a need for antibiotics.