

Canine Parvovirus Virus (CPV) PCR Testing

ABOUT: Canine parvovirus (CPV) is a highly contagious viral disease that affects dogs, especially unvaccinated puppies. The virus attacks rapidly dividing cells in the intestinal lining, bone marrow, and lymphoid tissues, leading to severe illness and high mortality rates. CPV is spread through fecal-oral contact and persists for months in the environment.

SYMPTOMS: Sudden onset of vomiting, diarrhea (often bloody), fever, lethargy, loss of appetite, and rapid dehydration. Severe cases may result in sepsis and sudden death.

PREVENTION: Vaccination is the most effective control. Disinfect kennels and equipment with appropriate virucidal agents, and isolate infected dogs immediately to prevent spread.

GETTING TESTED: PCR is the gold standard for detecting CPV in fecal material.

- Preferred specimen: 5 grams of fresh feces in a 10 mL ear notch tube.

- Handling & Shipping: Collect directly from rectum or fresh void (avoid ground samples). Wrap tubes in absorbent material and place in sealed zip-lock bags. Keep refrigerated (2-8 °C) until shipping. Ship overnight with ice packs that are separated from the samples by paper towels.

Do not freeze samples.

A positive PCR result confirms viral shedding and active infection.

Negative results may occur if the viral load is low. Repeat testing may be recommended if suspicion remains high.

CPV PCR tests are processed and results reported on Wednesday.

