



**AMERICAN  
KENNEL CLUB®**

8051 Arco Corporate Drive  
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[www.akc.org](http://www.akc.org)

October 11, 2023

**Dear Obedience & Rally Exhibitors:**

We are aware of the reports of Canine Respiratory Infectious Disease that caused some dogs at recent events to fall ill. The symptoms include coughing, sneezing, nasal and/or eye discharge, and lethargy.

The health and safety of dogs at AKC events is the responsibility of each and every exhibitor. Exhibitors are responsible for monitoring the health of their dogs and should be mindful to keep any dog that has been exposed to sick dogs, or that is exhibiting symptoms of illness, at home.

Pursuant to AKC rules, "No dog with a communicable disease shall be on the show grounds or premises. Exhibitors should follow their veterinarian's recommendations to ensure that their dogs are free of internal and external parasites, any communicable disease, and have appropriate vaccinations."

It is important to be mindful and exercise caution to protect against Canine Respiratory Infectious Disease. Below are some tips to assist you.

- The best protection is vaccination. Dogs should up to date on all core vaccines as well as Bordetella and bivalent influenza
- Isolate sick animals and keep them isolated for up to 30 days after symptoms subside.
- Practice good sanitation. Use a bleach and water mixture diluted to 1-part bleach x 30 parts water to disinfect common areas such as tables, bowls, leashes, crates, etc. Allow items to thoroughly air dry for a minimum of 10 minutes before exposing dogs to them.
- Wash your hands frequently, ideally between handling different dogs. At the very minimum, hand sanitizer should be used between handling dogs.

**Sincerely,**

**AKC Companion Events Team**