

## Mobile Veterinarians and COVID-19

### What do we know about COVID-19 and domestic animals?

- To date, there is no evidence that domestic animals can become ill with the virus that causes COVID-19, or spread it to people. However, we are still learning about this virus.
- Transmission of COVID-19 is much more likely to occur from infected people, rather than animals. Soft surfaces, such as fur or hair, don't transfer viruses as well as hard surfaces.

### How can mobile veterinarians maintain social distancing with clients?

- If possible, follow CDC guidelines on [How to Protect Yourself \(www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/prevention.html\)](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/prevention.html) for keeping a 6-foot distance from others
- Consider telehealth or telemedicine in your veterinary practice for established clients with a valid veterinarian-client-patient relationships.
- If your client is ill (with COVID-19 or another illness), consider postponing if it's a non-essential appointment. In emergency situations, ask the client to have a healthy person meet you for the appointment. Discuss care and follow-up with the client by phone.
- Stay home if you are sick. If a client needs veterinary care, contact another veterinarian to assist them.

### How can I protect myself?

- Use appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) for each situation.
  - For routine visits, we recommend wearing gloves for working with animals.
  - If a client informs you they have tested positive for COVID-19, request to evaluate the animal in a different location (if possible) with a healthy person present.
  - If a healthy person is not available to handle the animal, call MDH Zoonotic Diseases Unit for guidance at 651-201-5414.
- As always, wash your hands before and after each visit and routinely throughout the day.

### How should my equipment be cleaned and disinfected?

- Standard cleaning and disinfection protocols will kill the virus that causes COVID-19. Be sure to follow the correct contact time and dilution instructions for the products you use. Focus additional disinfection on high contact and high touch surfaces.

## Do I need to notify the State Public Health Veterinarian if I see an animal from a premise where someone is ill with COVID-19?

- No, you do not need to let the SPHV know about each of these instances. However, we are available if you have questions.

## What if one of my employees becomes ill with COVID-19?

- Veterinary personnel should not work while ill, whether it is COVID-19 or another illness.
- At this time, contacts of people who test positive for COVID-19 are being assessed for their risk and recommendations are made to reduce potential spread. Your clinic may be contacted by MDH in this situation.

## Latest Updates and Additional Resources

The COVID-19 situation is changing rapidly and this guidance may be updated as needed.

- Situation updates from MDH [Situation Update for Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) \(www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/situation.html\)](http://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/situation.html) webpage and CDC [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) \(www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html\)](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html) webpage.
- Minnesota Board of Animal Health [Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) \(www.bah.state.mn.us/covid-19/\)](http://www.bah.state.mn.us/covid-19/)
- [Minnesota Board of Veterinary Medicine \(mn.gov/boards/veterinary-medicine/\)](http://mn.gov/boards/veterinary-medicine/)
- [Compendium of Veterinary Standard Precautions for Disease Prevention in Veterinary Personnel \(nasphv.org/Documents/VeterinaryStandardPrecautions.pdf\)](http://nasphv.org/Documents/VeterinaryStandardPrecautions.pdf), published by the National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians includes infection control plan templates and disinfectant guidelines
- [American Veterinary Medical Association: COVID-19 \(www.avma.org/resources-tools/animal-health-and-welfare/covid-19\)](http://www.avma.org/resources-tools/animal-health-and-welfare/covid-19), with additional suggestions for modifying clinic traffic
- [CDC: Animals and Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) \(www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/animals.html\)](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/animals.html)

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*To obtain this information in a different format, call: 651-201-5414*