

## COVID-19 Checklist for Pet Owners and Veterinarians

### Top Things You Can Do to Protect Against COVID-19

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is aware of a very small number of pets outside the United States reported to be infected with the virus that causes COVID-19 after close contact with people with COVID-19.

Two dogs from Hong Kong and a cat in Belgium are known to have tested positive. These cases are considered human-to-animal transmission. At this point there is no evidence in the U.S. to suggest that any animals, including pets, can spread COVID-19 to humans and/or that pets can develop COVID-19. Even if a dog or cat are infected, that doesn't necessarily mean they are infectious or contagious; they are not necessarily able to transmit/spread the virus to people or other animals.

Ohio Department of Health Director Amy Acton, M.D., MPH, strongly recommends taking the following actions:

For pet owners:

- Practice everyday preventive actions to stay healthy around pets. Wash your hands after handling animals or their food, waste, or supplies. Practice good pet hygiene and properly clean up after pets.
- Identify backup caretakers for pets if you have or are suspected of having COVID-19. If you must care for your pet(s) while sick, wash your hands before and after you interact with them.
- If you are sick with suspected or confirmed COVID-19, avoid contact with your pet(s) including, petting, snuggling, being kissed or licked, and sharing food. Service animals should be permitted to stay with their handlers.
- Implement practical measures to protect yourself, your family, or pets from this or any other contagious respiratory illness.

- While there is no vaccination against COVID-19, always vaccinate pets as recommended by your veterinarian to protect them from other diseases.

For veterinarians:

- Communicate about COVID-19 with your staff. Share information about what is currently known about COVID-19, the potential for surge, and your facility's preparedness plans. Postpone meetings or hold them remotely.

- Ensure that sick employees stay home. Whenever possible, employees who report to work should stay at least 6 feet apart from each other and clients.

- Counsel clients on disease prevention practices, including how to stay safe and healthy around pets and other animals.

Use telemedicine whenever possible and appropriate.

- Limit house calls when possible. Consider examining animals outdoors instead of in client homes.

- Limit the number of people in waiting areas. Ask clients to wait in their cars. If multiple people are in waiting areas, ensure they remain 6 feet apart by using signage or tape on the floor.

- Post visual alerts (signs, posters) at entrances and in strategic places providing instruction on hand hygiene, respiratory hygiene, and cough etiquette. Ensure prevention supplies are available (tissues, waste receptacles, soap and water, alcohol-based hand sanitizer, disinfectant wipes).

- Increase the frequency of and enhance environmental cleanings using EPA-approved disinfectants. Clean exam rooms between each pet.

- Cancel or postpone all non-essential or elective surgeries or procedures. Monitor the availability of personal protective equipment (PPE) and implement [Strategies to Optimize the Supply of PPE and Equipment](#). If you have surplus PPE to contribute to the state stockpile for healthcare workers, please contact [together@governor.ohio.gov](mailto:together@governor.ohio.gov) or your local Emergency Management Agency.

For additional information, visit [coronavirus.ohio.gov](https://coronavirus.ohio.gov).

For answers to your COVID-19 questions, call 1-833-4-ASK-ODH (1-833-427-5634).

If you or a loved one are experiencing anxiety related to the coronavirus pandemic, help is available. Call the Disaster Distress Helpline at 1-800-985-5990 (1-800-846-8517 TTY); connect with a trained counselor through the Ohio Crisis Text Line by texting the keyword "4HOPE" to 741 741; or call the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services help line at 1-877-275-6364 to find resources in your community.

*Additional resources:*

American Veterinary Medical Association COVID-19 resources: <https://www.avma.org/resources-tools/animal-health-and-welfare/covid-19>.

CDC's COVID-19 and Animals FAQs: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/faq.html/#animals>.

CDC's [Healthy Pets, Healthy People website](#).

Interim Guidance for Public Health Professionals Managing People with COVID-19 in Home Care and Isolation Who Have Pets or Other Animals: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/interim-guidance-managing-people-in-home-care-and-isolation-who-have-pets.html>.

2020 Oregon Veterinary Medical Association COVID-19 Coronavirus & Pets: <https://www.oregonvma.org/care-health/zoonotic-diseases/coronavirus-faq>.

CDC's COVID-19 Resources for Healthcare Providers: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/healthcare-facilities/steps-to-prepare.html>.

CDC's COVID-19 Interim Guidance for Healthcare Facilities: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/healthcare-facilities/guidance-hcf.html>.

# CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 **Ohio**

Department  
of Health

Protect yourself and others from  
COVID-19 by taking these precautions.

## PREVENTION

For additional information call 1-833-4-ASK-ODH or visit [coronavirus.ohio.gov](https://coronavirus.ohio.gov).



STAY HOME



PRACTICE  
SOCIAL  
DISTANCING



GET ADEQUATE SLEEP  
AND EAT WELL-  
BALANCED  
MEALS



WASH HANDS OFTEN  
WITH WATER AND SOAP  
( 20 SECONDS  
OR LONGER)



DRY HANDS WITH  
A CLEAN TOWEL  
OR AIR DRY  
YOUR HANDS



COVER YOUR MOUTH  
WITH A TISSUE OR  
SLEEVE WHEN  
COUGHING OR SNEEZING



AVOID TOUCHING  
YOUR EYES, NOSE,  
OR MOUTH WITH  
UNWASHED HANDS  
OR AFTER  
TOUCHING SURFACES



CLEAN AND DISINFECT  
"HIGH-TOUCH"  
SURFACES OFTEN



CALL BEFORE VISITING  
YOUR DOCTOR



PRACTICE GOOD  
HYGIENE HABITS

For more information, visit: [coronavirus.ohio.gov](https://coronavirus.ohio.gov)