



Oregon Health Authority Recommendations for Veterinary Facilities during COVID-19 Pandemic

Veterinary clinics are a part of the health care system.

To ensure the health & safety of veterinary clinic staff and pet owners, the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) recommends taking the following precautions.

1. Staff should take their temperature at home prior to work.
2. Upon arrival, ask staff about any symptoms such as:
 - cough
 - sore throat
 - fever
 - headache
 - loss of smell or taste
 - diarrhea
 - vomiting

If any of the symptoms are present, staff should not be allowed to work.

Any staff member exposed to a confirmed case outside of the veterinary facility setting (households, friends, etc.) should not work and be quarantined for 14 days.

Quarantine is mandatory regardless of a negative test.

When working at a veterinary facility, curbside service will be prioritized to limit contact with the public as per [OSHA rules](#) (appendix A-16) with exceptions such as:

- Euthanasia.
- Showing an owner how to treat animals (e.g. how to administer fluids).
- In the case of animals that are difficult to handle (such as horses). With these cases you should have the owner manage the animal for safety's sake, and possibly allow the owner and animal to enter the facility if you are unable to examine the animal outside of the veterinary facility.

Masks, face coverings, and face shields and personal protective equipment.

- To minimize the risk of airborne spread of the disease, veterinary facilities must review and implement [OHA Statewide Mask, Face Covering, and Face Shield Guidance](#). Because of the nature of the veterinary profession, all staff should be masked and maintain at least 6 feet of physical distance when not working together with an animal.

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When veterinary staff have tested positive for SARS-CoV-19 in a veterinary setting, it is necessary to help the local health authority with contact tracing to identify those exposed to COVID-19.

- Exposed individuals should be advised to get tested as per [testing guidelines](#) (page 3, section 3).
- Exposed individuals may be quarantined for 14 days.
- **Only with the approval of the local Health Officer**, exposed individuals may only work with other exposed individuals as a cohort for 14 days. No additional staff can be added to the cohort once the 14-day period begins.
- Exposed individuals may not attend gatherings, outings or have extended contact with anyone else outside of their home during the 14 days.
- When at home, exposed individuals should wear a face covering and follow [OHA quarantine guidance](#) for 14 days to limit exposure to other household members.
- If one of the exposed individuals within the cohort were to test positive within the 14-day quarantine, then all exposed cohort members should be sent home and again quarantined for 14 days from their last exposure.

COVID-19 infection notification process

Employers must establish a mechanism for notifying both exposed and affected employees within 24 hours of the employer's knowledge of a potential COVID-19 workplace exposure (e.g. an individual with COVID-19 in the workplace.)

Medical removal (quarantine and return to work)

Whenever OHA, the local public health agency or medical provider recommends an employee be restricted from work due to quarantine or isolation for COVID-19, such as through identification during contact tracing activities, the affected worker(s) must be directed to remain at home and away from other non-quarantined individuals. Quarantined individuals must be allowed to work from home if suitable work is available. The affected individual is entitled to return to their previous job duties if they are still available. Return-to-work and testing decisions must be made in concordance with public health guidance and the employee's medical provider.

Cleaning and sanitation

The employer must regularly clean or sanitize all common areas, shared equipment and high-touch surfaces that are used by employees or the public.

Such regular cleaning or sanitization must be implemented based on the following frequencies:

1. at least once every 24 hours if the workplace is occupied less than 12 hours a day; or
2. at least every 8 hours while in use if the workplace is occupied for more than 12 hours a day.

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“COVID activity depends strongly on the collective success of mitigation efforts”

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