

Personal Protective Equipment for Veterinary Patient Encounters During COVID-19 Pandemic

Category	Definition	Required PPE for Veterinary Personnel
0	<p>Healthy companion animal patient without exposure to a person with COVID-19 compatible symptoms</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Companion animal patient with an illness that is NOT suspicious for SARS-CoV-2 infection AND without exposure to a person with COVID-19 compatible symptoms</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standard Precautions
1	Companion animal patient that is NOT suspicious of SARS-CoV-2 infection BUT has exposure to a person with COVID-19 compatible symptoms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standard Precautions <i>and</i> • Surgical/medical facemask • Gloves
2	<p>Companion animal patient with an illness that is suspicious of SARS-CoV-2 infection</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Aerosol generating procedure for any animal patient without an exposure to a person with COVID-19 compatible symptoms</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standard Precautions <i>and</i> • Surgical/medical facemask • Eye protection (face shield, goggles) • Gloves • Protective outerwear (gown or coveralls) • <i>N95 Respirator or suitable alternative may be considered</i>
3	<p>Aerosol-generating procedure for any animal patient with an exposure to a person with COVID-19 compatible symptoms</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Any veterinary procedure or visit where a person with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 will be present</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N95 Respirator or suitable alternative • Eye protection (face shield, goggles) • Gloves • Protective outerwear (gown or coveralls)

Adapted for Veterinary Services personnel by the DOD VS COVID-19 OPT using CDC guidelines accessed 14 May 2020: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/veterinarians.html#anchor_1588434194380

DEFINITIONS:

Standard Precautions: Hand hygiene in all cases, with addition of gloves, gowns and/or eye protection depending on potential for exposure to exudates, feces, saliva or other body fluids as defined in the 2015 SPHV Compendium of Veterinary Standard Precautions..

SARS-CoV2 or COVID-19 Exposure (within 14 days of presenting for veterinary care): Animal has been within approximately 6 feet (2 meters) of a suspected or confirmed COVID-19 positive person starting from 2 days before the person's illness onset (or, for asymptomatic human patients, 2 days before positive specimen collection) until the time the person is isolated. Or having direct contact with infectious secretions from a suspected or confirmed COVID-19 positive person starting from 2 days before the person's illness onset (or, for asymptomatic human patients, 2 days before positive specimen collection) until the time the person is isolated.

COVID-19 compatible clinical signs in animals: Fever, coughing, difficulty breathing or shortness of breath, lethargy, sneezing, nasal/ocular discharge, vomiting or diarrhea.

Aerosol-generating procedures: Intubation, oropharyngeal/tracheal suction, bronchoscopy, high-flow nasal cannula, nebulizers, ultrasonic scaling, dental drilling, etc.

N95 Suitable Alternative: If an N95 respirator is not available, use a combination of a surgical mask and a full face shield.

WASTE DISPOSAL:

Certain waste produced during the care of animals that may be infected with SARS-CoV-2 (animal feces, blood and bodily fluids, and any disposable materials including PPE soiled with animal waste, blood or bodily fluids) should be disposed of as medical waste while other waste such as PPE without visible staining or saturation may be disposed of in sealed normal trash. As necessary, refer to installation, local and state requirements on disposal of medical waste.



For current COVID-19 information:

<https://phc.amedd.army.mil/covid19> • <https://www.coronavirus.gov/>

The Military Health System Nurse Advice Line is available 24/7:

Call 1-800-874-2273 option #1

or visit <https://www.health.mil/I-Am-A/Media/Media-Center/NAL-Day-at-a-glance>

For more information, contact your installation's Department of Public Health.

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