

Guidance for Veterinary Practitioners during COVID-19 Pandemic

Animal Industry Division



April 27, 2020

This guidance is based on what is currently known about the transmission and severity of COVID-19 and information made available by [Nevada Health Response](#). The Nevada Department Agriculture (NDA) will update this guidance as needed and as additional information becomes available. Local agencies may have additional guidance and/or requirements regarding these operations in their jurisdiction.

Recommended Precautions for Veterinary Practitioners

Those employed in areas veterinary health, animal medical materials, etc. have been deemed “essential” under [Governor Sisolak’s directives](#). Veterinary facilities must prepare for possible COVID-19 impacts and take precautions to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Veterinary Facility Guidance

Social distancing

- Restrict facility access to essential personnel only (veterinarians, caretakers, owners, etc.)
- Limit the number of individuals attending appointments to one owner or handler per animal at one time. Other individuals can virtually join via video conference or phone.
- Encourage the use of telemedicine when appropriate.
- Implement an appointment only system. If there is an emergency, encourage clients to call before entering the facility and notify staff of the urgency.
- Require all individuals to maintain at least six feet of space between each other.
- Require that clients wait in their vehicles until they can be seen.

Cleaning and using protective equipment (in addition to normal PPE practices)

- All individuals should wash hands and wear clean clothes before entering the facility.
- Require washing stations or an alcohol-based gel for all entering and leaving the premises.
- All individuals should wear [face coverings](#) at all times and should refrain from touching the covering.
- All contact surfaces in the facility (gate latches, handles, switches, feed scoops, pitchforks, etc.) should be disinfected frequently.
- Follow CDC [Disinfection Guidelines](#) when cleaning and use [approved disinfectants](#).

Monitoring illness

- Monitor staff for signs of illness.
- Anyone experiencing signs of illness should stay home, contact their healthcare provider and follow [CDC-recommended steps](#).
- If anyone becomes sick, the facility should:
 - Close off areas used by the sick person.
 - Open outside doors and windows to increase air circulation in the area. Wait 24 hours (or as long as possible)

- Clean and disinfect all areas used by the sick person, such as offices, bathrooms, common areas, and shared electronic equipment like tablets and computers.
- Please reference the CDC's [Disinfecting Your Facility If Someone Is Sick](#) for guidance.

Additional Resources

Latest updates related to Nevada agriculture industries during COVID-19 can be found at agri.nv.gov/industry_resources_covid19.