



Larry Hogan, Governor · Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor · Dennis R. Schrader, Acting Secretary

December 17, 2020

Dear Maryland Veterinarian:

Subject: Reinforcing COVID-19 Prevention Efforts

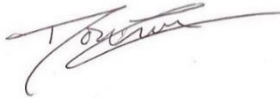
The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) is reaching out to the veterinary community to ensure continued compliance with recommended COVID-19 prevention protocols. These challenging times pose a significant threat to health and well-being. As a result, MDH encourages you to take this opportunity to reinforce COVID-19 prevention efforts, while continuing to protect both animal and human health.

All veterinary clinics are encouraged to do the following:

- Review the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) [Interim Infection Prevention and Control Guidance for Veterinary Clinics during the COVID-19 Response](#). This guidance, specific to veterinarians and staff providing care to companion animals, is intended to ensure that COVID-19 prevention practices are enacted to protect human and animal health.
- Advise staff to stay home if they are sick. Employees who appear to have COVID-19 [symptoms](#) upon arrival at work or who become sick during the day should immediately be separated from other clinic employees, animal patients, and clients and sent home.
- Advise staff who are sick or who test positive for COVID-19 that they should [isolate at home](#).
- Inform team members if they have been exposed to someone who might have COVID-19 while maintaining confidentiality. Notify the local health department of the potential exposure as well.
- Advise staff who have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 that they should [quarantine at home](#).
- Ensure that information on [hand hygiene](#), [COVID-19 symptoms](#), wearing [cloth face coverings](#), and [cough and sneeze etiquette](#) is posted at strategic places throughout the clinic. Signage for non-English speakers should be included, as needed.
- Remind team members that people may be able to spread COVID-19 even if they do not show symptoms. Consider all close interactions (within 6 feet for a total of 15 minutes or more in 24 hours) with employees, clients, and others as a potential source of exposure.
- Encourage social distancing for any small-group activities such as lunches, breaks, and meetings.

Thank you for your continued efforts to protect human and animal health. If you have additional questions, please contact the Center for Zoonotic and Vector-borne Diseases at 410 - 767-5649 or via email at: mdh.czvbd@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Crum", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

David A. Crum, DVM, MPH
State Public Health Veterinarian