

Animal Health Alert: Updated COVID-19 Guidance for Veterinary Practice Staff
6.22.2021

Dear Colleagues,

In Los Angeles County, veterinary practices are no longer considered healthcare sites since the on-going requirements for healthcare sites do not align well with what is needed at veterinary practices. Your facility will now be required to follow the health order procedures and Cal OSHA regulations for general businesses rather than those specifically for human healthcare. The Cal OSHA Emergency Temporary Standards related to COVID-19 prevention were updated June 17, 2021, and Governor Newsom signed an executive order that allowed the new procedures to immediately go into effect.

It is up to each individual veterinary practice to decide when they are ready to have clients come back into the hospital. Each facility will need to decide on their procedures related to masks and clients. Businesses have the choice of requiring all customers to wear masks, require proof of immunization or post signs and rely on an honor system.

The new Los Angeles County Health Order is posted at:

http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/Coronavirus/docs/HOO/HOO_SaferReturnWorkCommunity.pdf

The current Cal OSHA COVID-19 Prevention regulations are posted at:

<https://www.dir.ca.gov/oshsb/documents/Jun172021-COVID-19-Prevention-Emergency-txtcourtesy-Readoption.pdf>

What has changed?

1. Employers must provide written notice to employees, clients, and visitors of potential COVID-19 exposures in the clinic within one business day.
2. Employers must make COVID-19 testing available at no cost during paid time to all employees that had close contact in the workplace, except for fully vaccinated staff that do not have COVID-19 symptoms or individuals who had COVID-19 within the past 90 days.
3. Employers must provide face coverings for all unvaccinated staff and ensure that they are worn properly and are undamaged. Respirators shall be provided for unvaccinated staff on request.
4. Fully vaccinated staff no longer need to wear face coverings, nor quarantine after being exposed to COVID-19 if they remain asymptomatic.
5. Physical distancing requirements have been rescinded, except when unvaccinated staff are eating or drinking in the workplace.
6. Unvaccinated clients or visitors still need to wear masks.

Additional local and state COVID-19 updates:

- [Los Angeles County Department of Public Health COVID-19 site](#)
- [Los Angeles County Veterinary Public Health COVID-19 site](#)
- [Los Angeles County COVID-19 Resources](#)
- [California Department of Public Health COVID-19 site](#)

Additional resources for veterinarians and clients:

- [American Veterinary Medical Association COVID-19 site](#)
- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, COVID-19 and Animals](#)
- [California Veterinary Medical Association COVID-19 Updates](#)

Information on SARS-CoV-2 Testing in Animals:

- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Evaluation for SARS-CoV-2 Testing in Animals](#)

We will provide updates when guidance for veterinary practices is updated. Please call (213-288-7060) or email (vet@ph.lacounty.gov) if you have specific questions.

Sincerely,

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