

# Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19)

## 1. Can pets become sick with and spread COVID-19?

Animals have tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 (the virus that causes COVID-19), both in the U.S. and other countries, mostly after close contact with people with COVID-19. Most pets have no symptoms or very mild respiratory symptoms and recover without treatment. At this time, the risk of animals spreading COVID-19 to people is considered to be low.

## 2. I have a pet. What should I do?

Although the risk of COVID-19 infection in pets is low, there are other diseases that can cause illness in animals and spread from animals to people. Because of this, maintaining good hygiene around animals is always a good idea. Include pets in your family's preparedness planning.

## 3. I am sick with COVID-19 and I have pets or other animals. What should I do?

You should restrict contact with pets and other animals while you are sick with COVID-19, just like you would around other people. When possible, have another member of your household care for your animals while you are sick. If you are sick, avoid contact with your pet, including petting, snuggling, being kissed or licked, and sharing food. If you must care for your pet or be around animals while you are sick, wash your hands before and after you interact with pets and wear a facemask or face covering. Also, please notify your public health point of contact that you have animals in your home.

## 4. Can I walk my dog if I am under quarantine or isolation?

No. If you were placed under a 10-day quarantine after possible exposure or you are feeling sick and are under isolation for possible or confirmed COVID-19, you cannot leave your home during that period. Have a family member take your dog for walks during that time. Alternately, ask or hire someone else to walk your dog. When the person arrives to take your dog for a walk, both of you should be wearing face coverings and strive to stay 6 feet or more apart. Wash your hands both before and after the process of transferring the dog between people. Consider having the dog walker use their own leash.

## 5. How can I safely take my pet to the veterinarian?

It is up to each individual veterinary practice to decide on their procedures related to masks and allowing clients to come back into the hospital. Typically, the clinic will require all customers to wear masks, require proof of immunization, or post signs and rely on an honor system. People who are not fully vaccinated for COVID-19 should continue to wear masks when visiting veterinary hospitals. Call your veterinarian in advance and work with them



### Key Messages:

At this time, the risk of animals spreading COVID-19 to people is considered to be low.

However, pets can spread other diseases to people, so wash your hands after handling pets and animals.

Proper veterinary care will always help to keep both pets and people healthy and safe.

### For more information:

**Los Angeles County  
Department of Public Health**  
Call: 2-1-1  
Visit: [COVID-19 Media Page](#)  
or [Pets and COVID-19](#)

**Centers for Disease Control  
and Prevention (CDC)**  
Call: 800-CDC-INFO  
800-232-4636  
Visit: [COVID-19  
What You Need to Know  
About COVID-19 and Pets](#)

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closely to determine the best way to protect their health, your health, and the health of your animal. If you are sick and your pet needs to see a veterinarian, try to arrange for someone else to take your pet in and alert the facility before your pet arrives so they can prepare.

## **There are simple steps you can take to protect the health of your pet and family:**

- Get vaccinated against COVID-19.
  - Visit the [COVID-19 Vaccine - LA County Department of Public Health](#) Website to learn more and [myturn.ca.gov](https://myturn.ca.gov) to schedule an appointment.
- Establish a relationship with a veterinarian for your pet.
- Keep your pet's vaccinations current and use flea and tick control.
- Wash your hands after handling your pet, their bedding, toys, and food/water bowls.
- If you are sick, keep your distance from other people and pets and wash your hands frequently.
- If your pet is sick, contact a veterinarian. Keep your pet away from other animals until they are better. Wash your hands each time after caring for them.