

# Guidance for COVID-19 Patients Under Home Care and Isolation Who Have Pets or Other Animals



- At this time, there is no evidence that animals play a significant role in spreading the virus that causes COVID-19. Based on the limited information available to date, the risk of animals spreading COVID-19 to people is considered to be low. A small number of pets have been reported to be infected with the virus that causes COVID-19, mostly after contact with people with COVID-19.
  - You should restrict contact with pets and other animals while you are sick with COVID-19, just like you would around people. It is recommended that people sick with COVID-19 limit contact with animals until more information is known about the virus. Service animals may remain with their owner.
- When possible, have another member of your household care for your animals while you are sick. If you are sick with COVID-19, 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 including service animals while you are sick, wash your hands before and after you interact with pets and wear a facemask.
  - Since other infectious diseases can spread between animals and people, it's always a good idea to wash your hands after being around animals or handling animals, their food, or supplies.
  - If you have any concerns regarding your pets' health, contact your usual veterinarian. Call in advance so that your veterinarian can decide if an office visit is needed since he/she might be accepting only those pets that require urgent or emergency care.

## HELPFUL WEBSITES

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Covid-19 and Animals <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/faq.html#animals>
2. American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), What do you need to know about coronavirus? <https://www.avma.org/blog/what-do-you-need-know-about-coronavirus>
3. Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, COVID-19 Outbreak, <https://health.mo.gov/living/healthcondiseases/communicable/novel-coronavirus/>

**For more information: [www.health.mo.gov/coronavirus](http://www.health.mo.gov/coronavirus)**

**Hotline: 877-435-8411**

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