

Guidance for Testing Companion Animals for COVID-19



The following points should be considered when deciding whether to test a pet for COVID-19:

- There is no evidence that animals can transmit the virus to humans or other pets.
- Infection in pets is rare.
- Routine testing of companion animals is not recommended.
- Animals that are exhibiting compatible clinical signs should be screened for common respiratory pathogens prior to testing for COVID-19.
- If you have an animal that you believe to be an appropriate candidate for COVID-19 testing, please consider consultation with your local health office or MDOL.
- Positive test results should be reported to the MDOL at (406) 444-2976. The Department may request confirmatory testing be conducted at the National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL).

The CDC One Health Group has provided the following [testing guidance for SARS-CoV-2](#):

Criteria	Epidemiological Risk		Clinical Features
A	Animal with history of close contact with a person suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19.	AND	Animal has clinical signs of a new, concerning illness that is suspicious of an infectious disease.
B	Animal with exposure to a known high-risk environment (i.e. where a human outbreak occurred), such as a residence, facility, or vessel (e.g. nursing home, prison, cruise ship).		
C	Threatened, endangered or otherwise imperiled/rare animal in a rehabilitation or zoological facility with possible exposure to SARS-CoV-2 through an infected person or animal.	AND	Animal is asymptomatic; OR Animal has clinical signs of a new, concerning illness that is suspicious of an infectious disease.
D	Animals in a mass care or group setting (e.g. animal shelter, boarding facility, animal feeding operation, zoo) including companion animals, livestock, and other species, where their exposure to people with COVID-19 is unknown.	AND	A cluster of animals show clinical signs of a new, concerning illness that is suspicious of an infectious disease.

For additional information, the CDC has published a new [Interim Infection Prevention and Control Guidance for Veterinary Clinics during the COVID-19 Response](#).