

Primary Contact

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UPDATED Guidance for Veterinarians

The virus that causes COVID-19 spreads mainly from person to person through respiratory droplets from coughing, sneezing, and talking. Currently, there is no evidence that pets play a significant role in spreading the virus that causes COVID-19. Further studies are needed to understand if and how different animals could be affected by the virus, and the role animals may play in the spread of COVID-19.

The understanding of SARS-CoV-2 disease in animals is limited, though clinical signs of disease in mammals are expected to include: fever, coughing, difficulty breathing or shortness of breath, lethargy, sneezing, nasal/ocular discharge, vomiting, and diarrhea.

Routine testing of pets for SARS-CoV-2 is currently not recommended. Veterinarians are strongly encouraged to rule out other, more common cause of illness before considering testing for SARS-CoV-2, especially among pets without a COVID-19 exposure. If a pet does test positive, follow CDC guidance for both [home and veterinary facility isolations recommendations](#)

Here is a link to [Public Health-Seattle & King County guidance](#) and additional resources. For the full guidance document, please email Beth Lipton, Public Health Veterinarian, at Beth.Lipton@kingcounty.gov.