

COVID-19 AND ANIMALS

IS CORONAVIRUS A CONCERN FOR PETS?

A message from CDC: The virus that causes COVID-19 can spread from people to animals during close contact. Pets worldwide, including cats and dogs, have been infected with the virus that causes COVID-19, mostly after close contact with people with COVID-19.

The risk of pets spreading COVID-19 to people is low.

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases (NCEZID) 11-15-2021
www.cdc.gov/healthypets/covid-19/pets.html

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

ARE ANIMALS AT RISK FOR CONTRACTING COVID-19?

Pets infected with this virus may or may not get sick. Of the pets that have gotten sick, most only had mild illness and fully recovered. Serious illness in pets is extremely rare.

WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19 IN PETS?

Pets sick with the virus that causes COVID-19 may have: fever, coughing, difficulty breathing or shortness of breath, lethargy (unusual lack of energy or sluggishness), sneezing, runny nose, eye discharge, vomiting, diarrhea.

SHOULD YOU AVOID CONTACT WITH PETS IF YOU ARE SICK WITH COVID-19?

If you are sick with COVID-19 (either suspected or confirmed by a test), you should avoid contact with your pets and other animals, just like you would with people.

DO I NEED TO GET MY PET TESTED?

If your pet is sick and you think it might be from the virus that causes COVID-19, talk to your veterinarian.

Source: CDC, NCEZID 11-15-2021

HOW TO STAY HEALTHY AROUND ANIMALS

- Wash your hands before and after interacting with animals.
- Wash your hands before and after handling your animal's food or bowls, and after cleaning cages or litter boxes.
- Children that have been around animals should be prevented from sucking their thumbs or using pacifiers until they have washed their hands.
- Do not eat, drink, bite your nails, touch your face, or smoke around animals.
- Don't put your face in an animal's face or let your dog/cat lick your face.

Source: Sara Tomis and Mary Ellen Welch, UConn Extension

