



GEORGIA VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

Updated Pandemic Guidance for Veterinarians November 17, 2020

Updated Guidance on Workplace Pandemic Safety

As of 11/17/2020, the number of Georgia residents testing positive for SARS-CoV-2 and the positivity rates are increasing across Georgia. This intensification of community spread increases the risk for workplace acquired infections and workplace outbreaks and, with the holiday season approaching, a greater likelihood of workplace-acquired infections being transmitted to loved ones and friends. Workplace pandemic safety measures remain an essential part of overall workplace safety in veterinary settings. A comprehensive all-of-workplace approach to reduce the risk of COVID-19 in the workplace includes:

1. Universal use of medical or 2-layer cloth masks by everyone in the workplace at all times. See [CDC Scientific Brief](#) for updated guidance published 11/10/20.
2. Maintain a physical distance of 6 – 10 feet whenever possible and at all times when it is not possible to wear a mask (i.e. eating a meal)
3. Facilitate effective hand hygiene measures throughout the workplace.
4. Facilitate effective disinfection of all shared surfaces throughout the workplace.
5. Elicit buy-in from all employees regarding the critical role they play in workplace safety by adhering to workplace safety measures, not coming to work if they feel ill, and minimizing their risk for exposure outside of work.

No single measure is effective on its own and no measure is unimportant. Keeping everyone safe in the workplace requires a comprehensive approach and the participation of everyone who enters the workplace including non-employees (clients, delivery people, visitors). Rationale, Evidence and Suggestions for Implementation available here: <https://gvma.net/covid-19-resources/caring-for-yourself-staff/>

Updated Guidance on Employees Testing Positive in the Workplace

Definition of Contact: Per [CDC guidance](#), close contact is defined as being within 6 feet of a person with COVID-19 for a total of 15 minutes or more within in a 24-hour period. In health care settings, this does not apply to situations where both individuals are wearing appropriate PPE.

Notification of Contacts: Per [CDC Guidelines for Veterinary Clinics](#), inform team members, clients and others in the workplace if they have been exposed to someone who has tested positive or is believed to have COVID-19 so that they can take the measures they need to take to protect their personal health and the health of their family members.

Return to work: According to the [CDC guidelines](#), individuals who test positive for SARS-CoV-2 but do not have symptoms can return to work 10 days after a positive test. Individuals with symptoms can return to work after at least 10 days have passed since symptoms began AND at least 24 hours with no fever without fever reducing medication AND other symptoms of COVID-19 are improving.