

Temporary Oregon OSHA COVID-19 Rule

**Appendix A-16**

**Mandatory Workplace Guidance for  
VETERINARY CARE**

**Application:** This appendix applies to veterinarians licensed under ORS 686, and to their assistants and other employees. To the degree this appendix provides specific guidance, it supersedes the requirements for physical distancing and for the use of masks, face coverings, or face shields, and sanitation of the COVID-19 Temporary Rule (OAR 437-001-0744); to the degree a situation is not addressed by the specific language of this appendix, the requirements of the rule apply.

*Note: In accordance with [Oregon Health Authority Statewide Mask, Face Covering, Face Shield Guidance](#) and subsection (3)(b) of the Temporary Rule for COVID-19, it is strongly recommended but not required that individuals wear a mask or face covering as source control instead of a face shield alone.*

*Note: These workplace health and safety requirements are distinct from Oregon Health Authority guidance about reopening status and the resumption of non-emergency care, which may be restricted separate and apart from this appendix or the rule to which it applies.*

**A. Physical Distancing Measures.** To ensure appropriate physical distancing, veterinary facilities are required to take the following steps:

1. Adopt a curbside model, bringing the animal patient into the facility while the owner remains in the vehicle, strictly enforce 6-foot physical distancing in the waiting area, or employ a combination of the two;
2. Allowing owners and animal caretakers into veterinary facilities:
  - a. Owners and caretakers may come into the facility exam room for the purpose of euthanasia;
  - b. Owners and caretakers may come into the facility exam room for the purpose of receiving instruction as to providing home care for pets including but not limited to giving medication, fluids, managing feeding tubes or catheters, etc.;
  - c. In the case of examining or treating animals that may pose a threat to the veterinary worker, the animal owner or caretaker may be allowed into the veterinary facility as long as source control is observed;
3. Further minimize human-to-human contact by not allowing clients in the examination rooms other than under the circumstances listed above; and
4. Limit situations where any veterinarian workers or other individuals are in within 6 feet to those necessary to safely handle and treat the animal patient.

**B. Masks, Face Coverings, and Face Shields and Personal Protective Equipment.** To minimize the risk of airborne spread of the disease, veterinary facilities must review and implement [OHA Statewide Mask, Face Covering, Face Shield Guidance](#); if at any point such guidance is no longer available, such employers must require all employees, patrons, and other visitors five years of age and older, unless they are eating or drinking, to wear masks, face coverings, or face shields in all indoor spaces, and in all outdoor spaces whenever at least 6 feet of physical distancing cannot be consistently ensured.

**Additional Resources:**

- [Oregon Health Authority Signs You Can Post](#)
- [Oregon Health Authority Statewide Mask, Face Covering, Face Shield Guidance](#)
- [Oregon Health Authority Veterinary Facility Guidance](#)
- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Companion Animal Veterinary Guidance](#)

Reproduced from  
[“Interim Infection Prevention and Control Guidance  
for Veterinary Clinics Treating Companion Animals During the COVID-19 Response,”](#)  
published by the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (last updated August 12, 2020)

Animal History	Mask	Eye Protection (face shield or goggles)	Gloves	Gown or Coveralls	N95 respirator or suitable alternative
Healthy companion animal without exposure to a person with COVID-19 compatible symptoms	No	No	No	No	No
Companion animal with an illness that is not suspicious of SARS-CoV-2 infection AND without exposure to a person with COVID-19 compatible symptoms	No	No	No	No	No
Companion animal that is not suspicious for SARS-CoV-2 infection BUT has exposure to a person with COVID-19 compatible symptoms	Yes	No	Yes	No	No
Companion animal with an illness that is suspicious for SARS-CoV-2 infection	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Aerosol-generating procedure for any animal without an exposure to a person with COVID-19 compatible symptoms	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Aerosol-generating procedure for any animal with an exposure to a person with COVID-19 compatible symptoms	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Any procedure on an animal that is known to be currently infected with SARS-CoV-2 through detection by a validated RT-PCR assay	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Any procedure where a person with known or suspected of being infected with COVID-19 will be present	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes