

Information on 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) and Animals Including Pets:**1. Purpose:**

CDC developed this *interim* preparedness and response guidance for U.S. points of entry workers who might come into contact with animals (e.g., pets) imported from areas affected by 2019-nCoV. This document is to supplement, not supersede, your current agency/company SOPs for handling animals.

2. Background:

- Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses that are common in many different species of animals, including camels, cattle, dogs, cats, and bats. Rarely, animal coronaviruses can infect people and then spread between people such as with [MERS](#), [SARS](#), and now with 2019-nCoV. While 2019-nCoV is presumed to have emerged from an animal source, it is now spreading from person-to-person.
- **As of February 11, 2020, there have been no reports of animals, including dogs or cats, becoming sick with 2019-nCoV or being able to spread 2019-nCoV to other people or animals;** there is no reason to think that any animals or pets arriving to the United States might be a source of infection with this new coronavirus.
- Based on currently available information, as of February 4, 2020, animal travel or trade restrictions are not recommended. For current recommendations, visit <https://rr-africa.oie.int/en/news/questions-and-answers-on-2019-novel-coronavirus/>.
- However, this is a rapidly evolving situation and information and guidelines will be updated as we learn more about the new coronavirus.
- Updates and more information on 2019-nCoV and animals is available on CDC's website: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/faq.html>

3. General precautions with animals, including pets:

- Avoid direct contact (touching or holding) with animals in any phase of animal transportation.
- Always wash your hands:
 - After you have inadvertent direct contact with animals, their food, or supplies
 - After cleaning up after animals, including any body fluids or waste
 - After leaving areas where animals are temporarily housed at the port of entry, even if you did not touch an animal.
- If you are working around animals and you have any cuts or open wounds on your skin, cover the wound with a bandage appropriate for that type of wound.
- Pregnant and immunocompromised employees are at increased risk from zoonotic diseases. If you are concerned that your work responsibilities may put you at increased risk, discuss this with your supervisor and healthcare provider.
- Inspection of animal or crate contents should be by authorized personnel only. Follow your employer's (agency or company) SOPs for inspection.

- If an animal is or becomes accidentally unconfined, follow your employer's (agency or company) SOPs and contact the federal agency with authority over that species.
- Consult the SOPs and PPE recommendations from your agency or company for further guidance on the appropriate PPE.

4. Safety Precautions for Workers Intended to Reduce the Potential Risk of Disease Transmission During Contact with Imported Animals (including Pet Animals) from Areas Affected with 2019-nCoV:

- Wear disposable (or puncture proof) gloves when touching containers, documentation or other potentially contaminated surfaces or items, or if there is the potential for contact with urine, feces, blood, saliva, or vomit.
 - If gloves are needed, change gloves between inspections of individual animals or animal groups or when torn.
 - Gloves should be removed promptly and disposed of after use.
 - When disposing of gloves, follow agency or company's SOPs for disposal of potentially contaminated materials.
 - Disposable gloves should not be washed and reused.
 - Hands should always be washed immediately after glove removal.

5. Additional Safety Precautions for Workers Intended to Reduce the Potential Risk of Disease Transmission During Contact with Imported Animals from Areas Affected with 2019-nCoV In the Event that Splashes or Sprays with Animal Fluids (urine, feces, blood, saliva, or vomit) Are Possible:

- Follow agency or company's SOPs for appropriate protective clothing and face protection during removal, decontamination or disposal of potentially infectious materials.
- Use face shield or a surgical mask whenever splashes, or sprays are likely to occur. Goggles or a face shield may be needed when cleaning or disinfecting a potentially contaminated area.
- Consider using protective outerwear whenever splashes or sprays are likely to occur. Protective outerwear should be changed between animal shipments if there is a sick animal.
- Wear disposable shoe covers or washable boots when splashes or sprays of urine, feces, blood, saliva, or vomit are likely to occur.
- Contain the urine, feces, blood, saliva, or vomit with absorbent material (e.g., paper towels, sawdust, or cat litter).
- Pick up the material and seal it in a leak-proof plastic bag.
- Then, clean and disinfect the area, according to the disinfectant label instructions.
- Keep others away from the area until disinfection is completed.

- Follow agency or company's SOPs in the removal, decontamination or disposal of potentially contaminated PPE (e.g., face shields, goggles, outerwear, disposable boots, etc.).
- Wash your hands immediately after removing PPE.
- **If you touch an animal or its urine, feces, blood, saliva, or vomit**, wash the exposed area of skin immediately with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not immediately available, use an alcohol-based hand cleaner (60%-95% alcohol content) on hands.
- **If you are splashed in the eyes** or mouth with urine, feces, blood, saliva, or vomit, flush eyes immediately with warm water and immediately alert your supervisor and contact your health care provider.
- **If you receive a bite, scratch or abrasion** from an animal or animal product, wash the exposed area of skin immediately with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not immediately available, use an alcohol-based hand cleaner (60%-95% alcohol content) on hands and immediately alert your supervisor and contact your health care provider.

6. Alert a Supervisor for Concerns with Animals

You should alert your supervisor for any animals that:

- Have **NO documentation** or **have errors** on documentation
OR
- Appear sick or dead

7. General Guidance for Animals that Appear Sick or Dead

If animals, including pets, appear sick or are dead, alert your supervisor who will notify the appropriate federal agency with authority over those animal species.

How do I Know if an Animal Might Be Sick?

- Owner reports or you observe ONE or more of the following signs:
 - Profusely runny nose
 - Excessive drool from mouth
 - Bleeding from mouth or nose
 - Excessive diarrhea or bloody feces
 - Difficulty breathing
 - Coughing
 - Sweating excessively
 - Lameness or difficulty standing
 - Ulcers, lumps, blisters or rashes on the skin

How do I Know if an Animal Might Be Dead?

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- If the animal is unresponsive to noise or movement outside the crate
- If the animal does not move or look at you when you clap your hands or whistle at the animal

What to Do with a Sick or Dead Animal?

- Customs and Border Protection (CBP) or animal handling staff should contact the appropriate federal agency with authority over those animal species (e.g., CDC quarantine station for CDC-regulated animal species) and alert the supervisor who will follow existing SOPs for sick or dead animals
- Generally, animals should be kept in their original crate and be moved to a location away from other animals, people, and high traffic areas as soon as possible.
 - Limit access to the holding area to authorized personnel only. Clearly mark the animal holding area to indicate that access is limited to authorized personnel only and to describe additional precautions, if warranted.
 - Leave reusable personal protective equipment (e.g. face-shields, boots, etc.) in the holding area. Clean and disinfect or discard protective equipment after exiting the holding area and whenever contaminated by body fluids, including urine, feces, blood, saliva, or vomit.
- Please contact the CDC Quarantine Station if there are questions or concerns about the paperwork or health status of animals regulated by CDC.
- Please contact USDA APHIS or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service if there are questions or concerns about the paperwork or health status of animals regulated by these agencies.
- If veterinary care is needed the airline carrier is responsible for transportation and costs associated with the veterinary care of any sick animals.

8. Guidance for Airline Staff Transporting Sick Animals for Veterinary Care:

- Consult guidance from your agency or company on appropriate PPE use when transporting animals.
- Always wash your hands:
 - After handling animals, their food, or supplies
 - After cleaning up after animals, including any body fluids or waste
 - After leaving areas where animals are temporarily housed at the port of entry, even if you did not touch an animal.

9. Disinfection guidance for the cargo vans/vehicles:

- Use the PPE described above in section 4-5 (e.g. gloves, face shields, goggles, outerwear, disposable boots, etc.) as appropriate when cleaning and disinfecting crates and other surfaces in animal holding areas.
- Clean surfaces and equipment to remove organic matter, then use disinfectant according to disinfectant label instructions.
- Keep clean items separate from dirty items.

- After disinfection, safely remove PPE.
- Dispose of potentially contaminated materials, including PPE. According to agency SOPs
- Wash your hands immediately after removing PPE.

Selected Additional Resources:

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Novel Coronavirus Frequently Asked Questions and Answers www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/faq.html
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention 2019 Novel Coronavirus www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html
- [NASPHV Model Infection Control Plan for Veterinary Practices, 2015](http://www.nasphv.org/Documents/VeterinaryStandardPrecautions.pdf)
- World Health Organization Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019
- World Organisation for Animal Health Questions and Answers on 2019 Novel Coronavirus www.oie.int/scientific-expertise/specific-information-and-recommendations/questions-and-answers-on-2019-novel-coronavirus/
- CDC Quarantine Station Contact Information <https://www.cdc.gov/quarantine/quarantinestationcontactlistfull.html>
- USDA APHIS veterinary contact <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/contact-us>
- CDC Handwashing How-To: <https://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/when-how-handwashing.html>
- CDC Handwashing Posters <https://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/posters.html#posters-general-public>

Contact: Questions regarding animals and Novel Coronavirus or this interim guidance may be directed to the CDC Quarantine Station or by calling the CDC Emergency Operations Center at 770-488-7100 (24/7).