

HOT SHEET

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Animals and COVID-19

Should we be concerned about animals and COVID-19?

At this time, there is no evidence that pets can spread COVID-19. However, since animals can spread other diseases to people, it's always a good idea to wash your hands after being around animals. COVID-19 is mainly spread through droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or speaks. To protect yourself and others, clean your hands frequently and thoroughly, practice social distancing, and stay home if you are sick.

You should restrict contact with pets and other animals while you are sick with COVID-19, just like you would around other people. Although there have not been reports of pets or other animals becoming sick with COVID-19, it is still recommended that people sick with COVID-19 limit contact with animals until more information is known about the virus. When possible, have another member of your household care for your animals while you are sick.

As a general precaution, anyone visiting live animal markets, wet markets, animal product markets, or venues with livestock present should practice excellent hygiene habits. We recommend washing hands with soap and water and avoiding touching eyes, nose or mouth with hands after touching animals and animal products, and avoiding unnecessary contact with stray animals, sick animals, or spoiled animal products.

