

Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)

1. What is a coronavirus? There are many types of coronaviruses that cause disease in humans and animals. These viruses are all different and are only distantly related to each other. In humans, some coronaviruses cause mild upper-respiratory tract illness like the common cold, while a few can cause more severe disease such as SARS or MERS. In animals, there are coronaviruses that can cause a variety of symptoms in pets including respiratory disease or diarrhea, depending on the type of animal and the exact type of coronavirus. To date, coronaviruses that cause disease in pets are not known to be contagious to people.

2. What is COVID-19? Some coronaviruses from animals can evolve (change) into a new human coronavirus that can spread from person to person. This is what happened with the new coronavirus known as SARS-CoV-2 which causes the disease known as COVID-19

3. How does COVID-19 spread? Like other respiratory illnesses, such as influenza, human coronaviruses most commonly spread from person to person through:

- Droplets produced through coughing and sneezing
- Close personal contact, such as caring for an infected person
- Touching an object or surface with the virus on it, then touching your mouth, nose, or eyes before washing your hands

4. Can pets become infected with and spread COVID-19? To date, there are no reports of pets becoming sick with COVID-19 or of them spreading it to people or other pets. In late February 2020, there was one report of a positive test for the COVID-19 virus in a dog that had been near a sick person in Hong Kong. However, it is not yet clear if the dog just had the virus on its body surfaces, or if it was actually infected. At this time, there is no evidence that pets, including dogs, can spread COVID-19.

5. I have a pet. What should I do? Although COVID-19 infection has not been reported in pets, there are other diseases that can cause illness in animals and spread from animals to people. Because of this, washing hands after being around animals is always a good idea. If you are sick, wash your hands frequently, cover your cough and limit close contact with other people and pets. Include pets



KEY POINTS

- *Coronaviruses can spread through close personal contact or by touching an object or surface with the virus on it*
- *To date, there are no reports of pets becoming sick with COVID-19*
- *Washing hands after being around animals is always a good idea*
- *Have a 2-week supply of pet food and medications available*
- *If you are sick, keep your distance from other people and pets and wash your hands frequently*

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Stanislaus County Health Agency

<http://www.schsa.org>

Centers for Disease Control

<http://cdc.gov/coronavirus/novel-coronavirus-2019.html>

World Health Organization

<https://www.who.int/health-topics/coronavirus>

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in your family's preparedness planning. Have a two-week supply of pet food and pet medicines available.

There are simple steps you can take to protect the health of your pet and family from most diseases:

- Establish a relationship with a veterinarian for your pet.
- Keep your pet's vaccinations current and use flea and tick control.
- Wash your hands after handling your pet, its bedding and toys, or bowls.
- If you are sick, keep your distance from other people and pets and wash your hands frequently.
- If your pet is sick, contact a veterinarian. Keep it away from other pets until it is better. Wash your hands each time after caring for it

You may also call the Health Services Agency Public Health Department at (209)-558-7535