

# COVID-19 Response

PROACTIVE PLANNING



## Gilroy Veterinary Hospital

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## Practice Recommendations

Our state health officials have asked all Californian's to use their discretion in managing business practices while still taking measures to limit the spread of the Coronavirus. The California Department of Public Health has informed all local public health officers to encourage veterinary practices to include rabies vaccination of pets as an essential service.

The following are recommendations by the CVMA for practices to minimize the potential spread of COVID-19 while remaining open:

- **Review the Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidance document for veterinary practices here:** <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/veterinarians.html>
- Limit physical contact with clients and staff and apply social distancing recommendations. Examples of measures that can be taken include the following:
  - Schedule appointments at appropriate intervals to avoid clients arriving at the practice at the same time.
  - Set up a protocol for clients to remain outside of the practice if possible. Staff can check them in and have clients and patients enter at the appropriate time.
  - If clients are entering the practice, allow a limited number of clients in the practice at one time.
  - Keep adequate space between staff and clients, using the six foot rule as a guide.
  - Utilize electronic communication with clients when taking histories during the patient exam and when discussing patients/cases with clients.
  - Follow all mandates set by your county order.
- Escalate cleaning and sanitation protocols. Here are examples:
  - Institute strict hand washing and sanitation protocols for all practice staff, including frequently washing hands with soap for at least 20 seconds, using disposable gloves, and avoiding touching the face.
  - Regularly disinfect “high-touch” surfaces such as door handles, light switches, telephones, keyboards, and other surfaces that are frequently touched.
  - Increase the cleaning frequency of the practice.
- Give special consideration to vulnerable groups which include, but are not limited to the following:
  - Older adults (65+)

- Individuals with compromised immune systems
- Individuals who have serious chronic medical conditions such as:
  - Heart disease
  - Diabetes
  - Lung disease

Practices may need to make special accommodations for individuals at an increased risk of COVID-19 illness.