TESTING FOR SARS-COV-2
Determining when to test veterinary patients

Veterinary patient presents with clinical signs consistent with infection with SARS-CoV-2 (e.g., fever, lethargy, nasal/ocular discharge, sneezing, coughing, breathing difficulty, vomiting, diarrhea)

*Have other causes (e.g., infectious, metabolic, tumor) for clinical signs been ruled out?*

**NO**

Evaluate for other, more common causes of clinical signs and treat symptomatically as interim measure.

**YES**

**Are one or more of the following true?**

- Close contact with a person with suspected or confirmed COVID-19
- Exposure to a known high-risk environment where a human outbreak occurred (e.g., nursing home, prison, cruise ship)
- Atypical pattern of disease in a shelter, boarding facility, animal feeding operation, zoo
- Atypical pattern of disease in recently imported animal

**CAUSE IDENTIFIED**

Do not test for SARS-CoV-2. Treat appropriately.

**CAUSE NOT IDENTIFIED**

**NO**

DO NOT TEST FOR SARS-COV-2

Continue evaluation for other causes of clinical signs and treat symptomatically as interim measure.

**YES**

TESTING FOR SARS-COV-2 MAY BE WARRANTED

Contact state public health veterinarian and/or state animal health official for guidance.

**DECISION MADE TO TEST ANIMAL**

Follow state official’s guidance for doing so.

- Licensed, preferably USDA-accredited, veterinarian collects samples (some states may designate specific individuals; follow laboratory recommendations for sample submission).
- Use appropriate PPE during collection.
- Collect samples in duplicate in case National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL) confirmation is needed.
- Options for analysis (state dependent) may include state animal health, university, and/or private laboratories.

**POSITIVE RESULT**

Confirmation by NVSL required.

**NEGATIVE RESULT**

Continue evaluation for other causes of illness and treat symptomatically as interim measure.

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All services must be provided in compliance with federal, state, and local orders and mandates regarding essential business operations, social distancing, and safety requirements for staff. This material is for informational purposes only and is not intended to replace professional judgment.

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