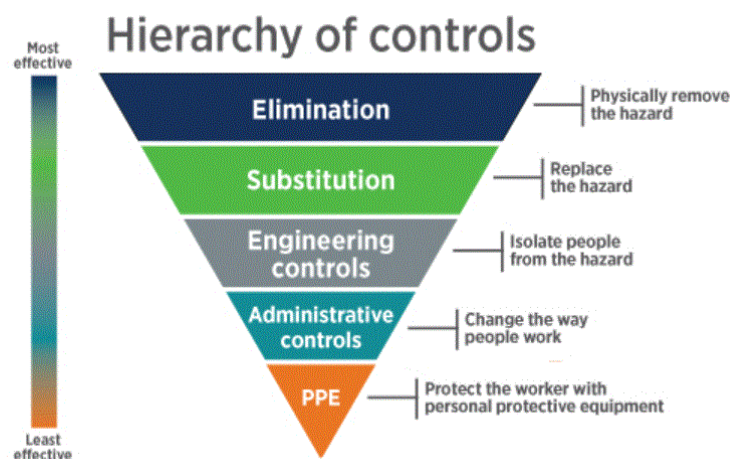


COVID-19 Protocols for IndeVets in Partner Hospitals

These protocols have been adapted from the AVMA's recommendations for essential personnel working in veterinary hospitals. These protocols are subject to change based on the trajectory of the pandemic and its effect on the veterinary profession. IndeVets are required to follow these protocols while working in partner hospitals to minimize exposure and keep everyone safe. If you encounter concern from a partner hospital about these protocols, please do not engage in commentary and contact me directly and as soon as possible.

The best way to prevent disease transmission is to use a combination of interventions across the **Hierarchy of Controls**. Please see below:



Elimination and substitution are the most effective ways to prevent disease transmission but are not usually options in a veterinary hospital setting. Because of this, our protocols will reflect using engineering controls, administrative controls and PPE.

Protocol for IndeVets Working in Partner Hospitals

Engineering Controls

1. **Addendum (May 12, 2020):** Follow regulations from state veterinary boards and governments regarding acceptable procedures and policies. Use your personal and professional judgement when working in our partner hospitals as to the necessity of appointments and the adherence to guidelines for proper infection minimization.
2. Use telemedicine if possible (this can include speaking on the phone or using Facetime to speak with an owner that is outside in their car after you evaluate their pet).
3. DO NOT go to work if you are sick in anyway. Report any symptoms to your manager and the scheduling manager as soon as possible. We will work to get another IndeVet to take your shift or cancel the shift. We will advise you to see your own doctor or consult a doctor via telehealth.

Administrative Controls

1. *Please take your temperature prior to reporting to your shift daily. If it is elevated at all, please notify your manager immediately and don't report to work.*

2. Do not allow clients in the exam room.
3. Practice social distancing with clients (6 feet or more away) if you need to talk to them outside the building about their pet.
4. Practice social distancing with staff members as much as possible when not working directly with an animal.
5. Enforce disinfection of the exam room or treatment table, etc. after every case. Ensure 5 minutes of contact time for the disinfectant.

PPE

1. When working directly with an animal and a staff member wear at least gloves (a new pair for each case) and a surgical mask. If hospitals have disposable gowns, we recommend using those as well as per their use protocol.
 - i. We understand that each hospital has a different amount of PPE. If reusing a mask, wash your hands before and after putting the mask on and taking it off; keep the mask in a clean place if not using it.
 - ii. Also consider wearing a washable surgical gown during your shift and placing it in the laundry at the hospital before you leave. Replace the gown sooner if it becomes soiled or wet.
2. We also recommend the staff members helping you utilize the same PPE protocol.
3. Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds after every case, after touching any surfaces and before touching your face or the surgical mask you are wearing.
4. There are new reports that cats (wild and domestic) may be susceptible to COVID-19. Please review the summary provided to you detailing the current information from the AVMA, USDA, CDC and one non-peer reviewed study about COVID-19 and cats. *We recommend you adhere to a partner hospital's additional strict protocols when faced with a cat with respiratory disease.* Some hospitals are utilizing telemedicine (with a valid VCPR) to evaluate cats with respiratory disease first and using stricter PPE protocols if a cat with respiratory disease must enter the clinic to be evaluated.
 - i. When evaluating a cat with respiratory disease in the clinic, consider full PPE and ask to use a pair goggles or a face shield (likely from their dental procedure supply). Fully disinfect the goggles/face shield after use.
 - ii. Follow your state's guidelines if you determine a cat may need COVID-19 testing.

MB 5.12.2020