

AVOIDING COMMUNITY ACQUIRED INFECTIONS

Key Points for DVM Student Laboratories

June 25, 2020

Background. Recommendations for DVM student laboratories were developed in consideration of CDC, WHO, Colorado State University, County, and State guidelines. Best practices used at other Colleges of Veterinary Medicine were also considered.

Institutions of Higher Education – CDC Risk Definitions

Using the CDC Risk Definitions, we are currently operating at the “More Risk” category.

- Lowest Risk: Faculty and students engage in virtual-only learning options, activities, and events.
- **More Risk: Small in-person classes, activities, and events. Individuals remain spaced at least 6 feet apart and do not share objects (e.g., hybrid virtual and in-person class structures or staggered/rotated scheduling to accommodate smaller class sizes).**
- Highest Risk: Full-sized in-person classes, activities, and events. Students are not spaced apart, share classroom materials or supplies, and mix between classes and activities.

I. Current Recommendations

- A. All students should self-monitor for typical COVID-19 symptoms, including temperature elevation, before coming to campus each day. Thermometers will be available at all hours in strategic locations, and an online self-screening form PDF form is available through the CSU COVID-19 information site. An online portal for health self-screening for students is planned for activation ~Aug 1, 2020 through RamWeb.
- B. Do not come to the laboratory if you are clinically ill (e.g. elevated temperature, cough, difficulty breathing, sore throat, chills, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell). Exceptions to this campus restriction apply to students seeking medical treatment with the CSU Health Network.
- C. A student who tests positive for, or has symptoms consistent with, COVID-19 should immediately phone or email:
 - the appropriate faculty member on service
 - the appropriate DVM Student Coordinator (1st and 2nd year students, Ms. Laura Leinen; 3rd and 4th year students, Ms. Deb Liptak).
 - the CSU public health department (ehs_public_health_office@Mail.Colostate.edu)
 - qualified health care provider

The student should immediately go home if on campus, and to stay home until guidance is provided by the student’s personal care provider (PCP), other qualified health care provider, or the CSU public health department. If the student does not have a PCP or is unable to access a qualified health care provider, the Student Coordinator will inform the student of resources

available through the CSU Health Network, CSU Student Case Management, or local public health department.

D. PPE, distancing and disinfection

1. Always wear your cloth mask to protect others in case you are an asymptomatic carrier.
2. When possible, maintain 6 feet social distancing while always wearing your cloth mask.
3. Ensure that your table or space is at least 6 feet away from other student groups.
4. You will be assigned to laboratory groups in a manner that will reduce cross-exposure to other individuals. Please remain in your group as much as possible. Laboratory groups will be limited to four students unless permission for larger groups is secured from Dr. Lappin.
5. If the laboratory experience requires that you be within 6 feet of another individual for more than a few seconds, wear a full face shield as your protective eyewear. The face shield will be provided to you by the DVM teaching program.
6. Laboratory demonstrations should be given electronically to allow for 6 feet of distancing. If an instructor must give a live demonstration that requires separation of < 6 feet, all parties must wear their cloth masks and full face shields, and ensure the contact time is as short as possible and always less than 15 minutes.
7. Wear examination gloves and replace if soiled.
8. Wash hands frequently and do not touch your face.
9. Thoroughly disinfect the working area after use, using the materials and disinfectant supplied.

II. Temporary cloth mask and face shield removal for a comfort break

1. The safest place is outside > 6 feet from others.
2. A private or semi-private space (e.g. room or hallway, > 6 feet from others) is acceptable.
3. If you have removed your mask temporarily in the VTH or other inside locations at the University, disinfect the area in your immediate vicinity (i.e. that you touched or breathed upon) before leaving the space.

III. Wear and handle your cloth mask correctly

1. Handle your mask by the ties.
2. Wash your hands or use sanitizer before putting on your cloth mask.
3. Make sure your cloth mask contacts the sides of your face and covers your nose and chin.

4. Wash your hands or use sanitizer after taking off your cloth mask.
5. Wash your cloth mask daily or rotate masks so that you always have a clean mask available.

IV. Additional notes

1. If additional PPE is medically required for personal health reasons, contact Dr. Melinda Frye and the CSU Student Disability Center to start the evaluation and accommodation process.
2. You will find answers to other frequently asked questions about PPE on the CVMBS Scope Site.

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