

COVID-19: GUIDANCE FOR PET GROOMERS

While the Mandatory Order prohibits dog groomers from allowing patrons to enter their place of business, there are ways to modify operations in order to follow the Order and still remain open:

- Incorporate best practices for transferring the animal while not admitting patrons inside any structure, such as securing and exchanging the pet outside of the business by respecting the social distancing of 2m / 6 feet;
- [Clean and disinfect](#) all areas and equipment used for housing, transferring and grooming between each appointment;
- Screen clients and staff for symptoms (e.g., fever, cough, headache, runny nose, sore throat). People who have symptoms should self-isolate at home and call 811 for advice.
- Limit number of employees to maintain 2m of physical distancing from others;
- Employees must practice regular [hand washing](#) and good respiratory etiquette;
- Determine changes to work procedures to complete the task differently to maintain social distancing. Install temporary dividers (Plexiglas or possibly even heavy plastic sheeting) between workstations to act as a barrier;
- Where there are no alternatives to having two employees work in close proximity to complete a task, they should wear a face shield or a non-medical mask.

CAN COVID-19 BE TRANSMITTED ON ANIMAL FUR?

There are no studies which specifically tested how long Covid-19 could live on animal fur. Various experts indicate that it is unlikely to transmit the virus via fur.

CAN HUMANS CONTRACT COVID-19 FROM PETS?

The current spread of COVID-19 is a result of human-to-human transmission. Currently, there is no evidence to suggest that pets or other animals play a role in transmitting the disease to humans.

PUBLIC HEALTH ADVICE FOR PETS OWNERS

If you have COVID-19 symptoms or are self-isolating due to contact with a case, you should:

- avoid close contact with pets during your illness
- avoid coughing and sneezing on your pets
- if possible, have another member of your household care for your pets. If this is not possible, minimize your direct contact with pets, always wash your hands before and after touching pets, their food and supplies.
- limit your pet's contact with other people and animals outside the household until your illness is resolved

TESTING PETS FOR COVID-19

Testing animals for COVID-19 is not recommended. If your pet develops illness following exposure to a COVID-19 case, talk to your veterinarian. Currently, there are no licenced commercial vaccines against COVID-19 available in Canada for animals.

Visit www.qnb.ca/coronavirus for latest information on COVID-19.