

The Four Cs of Clinical Practice During COVID-19



The COVID-19 pandemic presents unique challenges in veterinary medicine clinical practice. The Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA) encourages you to consider the Four Cs of Clinical Practice when providing care in your clinic or hospital.

CLOSED SPACES with poor ventilation

Closed spaces such as **exam rooms** and **vehicles** can present an increased risk for COVID-19 transmission.

Minimize the use of smaller rooms and increase ventilation (such as maximizing HVAC flow and using fans) if possible.

CROWDED PLACES with many people present

Exam rooms and **waiting rooms** are ideal places for the COVID-19 virus to circulate among people.

Help fight transmission by restricting clinic access and limiting the number of people in the clinic at any given time. Practice curbside pickup as much as possible. If a client must accompany their pet, bring the client to an exam room but work on the pet in a separate room. You can speak to the client via phone or video call during the exam if reassurance is required.

CLOSE CONTACT SETTINGS

Situations **where people get close** (especially when there is talking, yelling, or other aerosol generating procedures) are of particular concern.

Maintain **two metres of physical distance** as much as possible and maximize practices that minimize close contact time such as telemedicine (phone, video calls, etc.) or hybrid appointments. **Ensure everyone is wearing a mask** to reduce the spread of droplets and aerosols.

CONTINUOUS

Continuous contact with others increases the risk of transmission.

Limiting the time spent with other people can help decrease exposure.

Swiss Cheese Model – COVID-19 Transmission

Each of these **control measures** can help protect your employees and clients. Each control measure that is added in practice helps increase protection, while removing any decreases protection.

