



National Indian Health Board
**NATIONAL TRIBAL
COVID-19 RESPONSE**

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COVID-19 and Animals

COVID-19 (the disease caused by the SARS-Cov-2 virus) is a respiratory illness that was discovered in late 2019 in humans. Scientists believe that the virus was likely first contracted by a human from a sick animal. Additionally, there have been several reported cases of animals, including pets, contracting the virus. Because of this, people may have concern over interacting with pets and livestock.

Can My Animal Get Me Sick?

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) states that there is currently no evidence that pets or livestock play a significant role in spreading COVID-19, although they are still learning more about the disease. The current understanding is that most people who get sick, contracted the virus directly from another person. However, experts are not ruling out the possibility that the virus can spread from people to animals in some situations.

To protect yourself and your animals, you should always wash your hands before and after handling animals. Because animals carry germs that can make people sick, you should also practice good animal hygiene and clean up after your animals properly.



You should treat pets like human family members, and distance them from other people and animals while social distancing guidance are in place. Like people, your pets should be kept at least 6 feet from other people and animals, and you should avoid taking them to public places. You should also avoid contact with animals that are not your own.

I Think I Have COVID-19, Now What?

If you think you are sick with COVID-19, you should try to stay away from your pet and any other animals. Ask someone else to take care of your animals if possible. Avoid close contact. If you must take care of an animal yourself, wear a cloth face covering and wash your hands frequently.

Review the most up to date information on animals and COVID-19 at
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/pets.html>

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