

COVID-19 and your Facility Dog

Service Dogs Alabama understands that your Facility Dog will be needed by your students more than ever. This information will provide your school and you (the handler) with information to assist you in returning to school safely with your Facility Dog.



SDA recommendations:

1. Follow all guidelines provided by your state and your school.
2. Sanitize your hands and your student's hands frequently.
3. Bathe your dog once a week. Wipe the top of your dog's coat with a Baby Wipe throughout each day (it will not kill Covid, but will keep your dog clean). Do not use chemicals, alcohol, or disinfectant on your dog. Do not put a mask on your dog.
4. Use collars and leashes that can be disinfected. Use vest to enter and exit school, not when interacting with students. Take your vest off when working in a secure area.
5. Only allow your dog to "visit" and be petted when everyone is seated. This will encourage social distancing and cooperation.

From Dr. Cade Armstrong DVM (Official Veterinarian and Advisor for SDA)

Safety Recommendation

"I do not know of any cases of Covid in dogs reported in Alabama, nor have I seen any evidence that Covid can be transmitted to a human through contact with a dog. Given today's research, it is my opinion that it would be safe to take Facility Dogs back into schools to work."

-Cade Armstrong DVM

From FDA.gov

Can pets carry the virus that causes COVID-19 on their skin or fur?

Although we know certain bacteria and fungi can be carried on fur and hair, there is no evidence that viruses, including the virus that causes COVID-19, can spread to people from the skin, fur, or hair of pets.⁴ days ago

[www.fda.gov > coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19 > cor...](https://www.fda.gov/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/cor...)

Can pets transmit the coronavirus disease to their owners?

At this time, there is no evidence that pets, including cats and dogs, play a role in spreading COVID-19 to people. The virus that causes COVID-19 spreads mainly from person to person, typically through respiratory droplets from coughing, sneezing, or talking. 4 days ago

From American Veterinarian Medical Association

Is it safe to pet my dog?

According to the AVMA, petting a dog's fur is a low risk. The AVMA's Chief Veterinary Officer Gail Golab [says](#), "We're not overly concerned about people contracting COVID-19 through contact with dogs and cats." And there's science behind that: "The virus survives best on smooth surfaces, such as countertops and doorknobs," Golab says. "Porous materials, such as pet fur, tend to absorb and trap pathogens, making it harder to contract them through touch."

From American Kennel Club (AKC)

Can dogs contract COVID-19?

Dogs can contract coronaviruses, most commonly the canine respiratory coronavirus. This specific novel coronavirus (COVID-19) is not believed to be a health threat to dogs, but dogs can test positive for the virus.

A [Pug](#) named Winston in Chapel Hill, North Carolina [was thought to be](#) the [first known case](#) of a dog testing positive for COVID-19 in the United States. However, subsequent testing has concluded that the dog never contracted the virus. "While there was a weak detection from the original oral sample, it did not meet the case definition for a positive, and all other testing was negative," said Lyndsay Cole, a spokesperson for the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. Three family members who lived in the home, two of whom are front-line health care workers, had tested positive for COVID.

(Hong Kong has reported there have been several cases of dogs testing positive for COVID.)