



Guidance for UK veterinary practices on working safely during Covid-19

This BVA guidance is intended to support veterinary practices to work safely during Covid-19.

It recognises that that each individual veterinary practice will need to have their own systems in place depending on local circumstances and that practices will need to work in line with national and devolved legislation and local guidance. It will remain in place for as long as necessary in line with government advice.

This BVA guidance is supplementary to the [RCVS guidance and flowcharts](#), which are being regularly reviewed and updated in line with legislative changes.

Government restrictions across the UK

During November the UK faced a second wave of the pandemic and the four nations of the UK put in place new rules and restrictions. Across the UK veterinary practices have been able to remain open.

Veterinary professionals should refer to government websites for the latest information on local rules and restrictions for the general public and businesses:





before booking any appointments.

Advise owners coming into the practice (eg for a euthanasia) on what to expect, including that it may look and feel different to normal due to social distancing measures.

Only allow one client per animal, where possible.

Remind clients that they are required to wear a face covering when inside the practice, unless they are exempt for health reasons

Consider asking clients to wait outside the consult room and, if necessary, outside the premises.

Obtain histories and discuss and agree treatment plans remotely.

Use technology to triage and consult whenever possible and appropriate.



social distancing within the space, where possible. Take into account total floorspace as well as likely pinch points and busy areas.

Ensure ventilation systems are serviced and in working order.

Use outside areas for queuing where available and safe, eg car parks, but be aware of the impact on public spaces.

Put in place pick-up and drop-off collection points, where possible, rather than passing goods such as medications hand-to-hand.

