



Guidance for UK veterinary practices on working safely as Covid-19 lockdown restrictions are lifted

This BVA guidance is intended to support veterinary practices to work safely as they make the transition from lockdown to normality.



BVA Guidelines for safe working in veterinary workplaces

Practices have adapted brilliantly to new ways of Covid-safe working. As lockdown restrictions are lifted, we encourage all practices to continually risk assess any changes they are making in consultation with the whole team.

1. Undertake regular risk assessments for your workplace:

Involve colleagues to help the whole team understand the risks of any changes, and mitigating actions.

2. Minimise client contact as much as possible:

Continue to use phone or video calls to triage and obtain histories.

Think about which areas of the practice it is safe to allow clients in and provide clear signage. Manage client expectations and be clear about what measures they can expect.

3. Staff who can work from home should continue to do so, for now:

Practices should continue to support home working but begin to plan how colleagues will start to come back to the workplace in consultation with the team.

We anticipate there will be further government guidance on returning to the workplace safely.

4. Minimise staff contact:

Practices should consider continuing to work in fixed pairs or small teams, to keep everyone safe and be mindful that test, trace and isolate schemes are still in place.

Physical distancing measures should be maintained as far as possible.

5. Follow all hygiene and biosecurity measures:

Use clear signage to remind colleagues and clients to comply with all measures.

6. Think about physical space and layout:

Use floor markings and signage to help maintain physical distancing and reduce congestion. Maintain good ventilation.

7. Risk assess and plan ahead for all visits (inc homes, farms, and yards):

Discuss plans in advance with clients and be clear about how you want to work and the safety measures you expect to have in place, such as ventilation, use of face coverings, and physical distancing.

There is no expectation that vets should attend an infected or suspected Covid-19 household, in line with the RCVS Code supporting guidance (3.37f and 3.43).

8. Minimise the risks of vehicle sharing:

Avoid vehicle sharing, if possible, or maintain maximum space between occupants.

Regularly clean vehicles.

For the latest BVA updates please visit: www.bva.co.uk/coronavirus

For species-specific advice, please visit relevant veterinary associations' websites.