

13. Transmission of COVID-19 Between Humans and Animals

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Considerations	Plan 1 – Return to School	Plan 2 – Blended & Remote
The first confirmed cases of a COVID-19 infection in house cats in New York was made on April 22, 2020. In one case, the pet may have been exposed to the virus by a mildly ill asymptomatic household member or an infected person outside its home. The other pet showed symptoms of the disease after its owner tested positive for COVID-19. Until more is known, the CDC recommends the following:		
Do not let pets interact with people or other animals outside the home		
Keep animals indoors when possible to prevent them from interacting with other animals or people		
Walk animals on a leash, maintaining at least 6 feet from other people and animals		
Avoid dog parks or public places where a large number of people and dogs gather		
In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, service animals should be permitted to remain with their handlers		
At this time, there is no evidence that animals play a significant role in spreading the virus that causes COVID-19		
Based on the limited information available to date, the risk of animals spreading COVID-19 to people is considered to be low.		

Standard handwashing practices should be implemented before and after interacting with a companion animal		
State public health veterinarians should be notified if health professionals become aware of an animal that becomes ill with symptoms compatible with SARS-CoV-2 infection and resides or is housed in a setting with a person with COVID-19		