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COVID-19 updates for OVMA members

New staff screening form for COVID-19

As part of the provincial government's ongoing fall pandemic plan, the Ministry of Health released a bulletin that requires employers to screen staff for COVID-19 symptoms at the start of every shift. Along with staff, businesses are required to screen all clients and visitors entering the practice for signs and symptoms of the virus.

OVMA has created a [screening template](#) for clinics to utilize. Forms should be kept in a secure area in the clinic for a minimum of 30 days. After 30 days, the forms can be shredded following privacy guidelines.

For questions about screening, contact Brandi Deimling at bdeimling@ovma.org or 1.800.670.1702, ext. 224.

Curbside measures during winter months

As the temperature begins to dip and curbside measures continue, OVMA members are seeking advice concerning how to handle clients waiting in the cold. With the number of COVID-19 cases already on the rise, now is not the time to relax your health and safety protocols. Here are a few things to keep in mind as winter approaches:

- Continue making use of curbside pet drop-off whenever practical.
- Proper outdoor maintenance will be essential for the safety of staff and clients. Ensure all walkways are cleared from snow and salted for ice, and clear any overhanging icicles from waiting spaces, entrances and exits.
- To limit cold exposure, ensure staff have proper attire for outdoor drop-offs and pickups.
- Use telemedicine when possible so clients can remain at home unless their pet needs to be seen in clinic.
- Limit foot traffic in the clinic.
- If clients are being allowed in the clinic, only allow them to enter at the time of the appointment.
- Only allow one person to accompany the pet into the practice.
- Stagger appointments to ensure clients are able to maintain social distancing while in the clinic.
- Ensure every individual that enters the practice completes a [COVID-19 screening form](#).
- If a client needs to come inside because they took a cab or public transit, escort them directly to an empty exam room. With everyone masked, staff can pop into the room for a quick, socially-distanced chat, and then take the pet to the back.

For more information, [read Dr. Scott Weese's article](#).



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