**UPDATED COVID-19 GUIDELINES**

**Updated June 1, 2021**

New CDC guidelines for mask use, and Gov. Northam’s change to masking requirements in Virginia, require us to revisit **MASKING requirements** as they pertain to in-home veterinary care visits. [Executive order 72 (Seventh Amended)](https://vvma.org/EmailTracker/LinkTracker.ashx?linkAndRecipientCode=F%2bRi%2biUl84GpCy6GxfcX1H4/XkuLMPXf5DA5KIqYGbBdCms/Nrfml3JJqgnX45UeKm6O6FUo3jqPSNFie7yN5biTHP4l/mKQEUEXuqHXjps%3d) allows Virginia veterinary facilities to create specific guidance for best practices and masking mandates relevant to their employees potential exposure. Thus, below entails our **updated MASKING requirements for in-home veterinary visits.**

**Unvaccinated people CAN spread/infect COVID-19 to others even if they do not feel sick.** Therefore, we will NOT place our staff in the position of potential exposure. If you are unvaccinated, please do NOT use our services and seek veterinary care via another facility where risk of exposure would be lower for the veterinary staff. The nature of our service REQUIRES our staff to enter your home where ventilation is not appropriate for properly clearing the respiratory virus from the breathable air and makes 6 feet social distancing impossible.

**Fully vaccinated** (means 2 weeks or more have passed since getting the second dose of a two-dose vaccine (e.g., Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna), or getting one dose of a single-dose vaccine (e.g., Johnson & Johnson [Janssen]) people do not have to wear masks or practice physical distancing in most indoor or outdoor settings, as per the CDC and VDH mandates. Our staff, though fully vaccinated **WILL** be wearing masks during their time within the home. This is necessary as the nature of service does not allow the maintenance of appropriate 6 foot social distancing during the visit, in addition to ventilation concerns within a home environment. Fully vaccinated clients can choose to wear masks during our visit, and we FULLY SUPPORT this decision. However, fully vaccinated clients who choose not to wear masks during the visit will be asked to try to maintain 6 feet social distancing as much as possible during the visit.

We will continue to screen, as needed, clients as to signs/symptoms of COVID-19 (<https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/content/uploads/sites/182/2020/06/Visitor-Screening.pdf>) which may include this written document and/or temperature screenings upon entry. **We retain the right to refuse service to ANYONE exhibiting any signs/symptoms of COVID-19 or has a temperature > 100F.**

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**Vaccination:**  Authorized COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective. COVID-19 vaccination is an important tool to bring us closer to enjoying the activities we have missed. Getting vaccinated is up to you. Vaccines are now more widely accessible in Virginia for everyone 12 and older. Pre-registration for COVID-19 vaccination is no longer necessary.  To find a COVID-19 vaccination appointment, visit [vaccinate.virginia.gov](https://vvma.org/EmailTracker/LinkTracker.ashx?linkAndRecipientCode=3X8911WClDGbxGH4ay7KMsJ/AV3TwS/9UnrWPig1404U347WigZkFbcpRZ1fhlXBIFzfiHHtl9Px3tCE9v9ApqLzUdKd4U6243Y9DPHsz4Q%3d) or call 877-VAX-IN-VA (877-829-4682).