

# COVID-19 RECOMMENDATIONS

Swine veterinarians have an essential role in providing services that protect public health and swine health and welfare. There is no evidence that pets or livestock have a role in spreading SARS-CoV-2 in the United States. However, this serious public health threat is having an impact on our practices, communities, clients, and families.

The American Association of Swine Veterinarians is offering the following recommendations to ensure swine veterinarians stay healthy and continue meeting a critical need in public and animal health and welfare.



**Practice good hygiene.** Wash your hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Avoid touching your face. Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue.



**Stay home as much as possible, especially if you are sick.** Your clients should inform all employees to not come to work if they are feeling unwell. Management on farms should routinely look for ill employees and immediately send them home. Maintain flexible leave policies and make sure all employees know they need to stay home if they are ill.



**Avoid close contact and practice social distancing when possible.** If you or your staff are able, work remotely. Maintain at least 6 feet between contacts. Consider visiting sites or evaluating animals without a caretaker present or with the minimum number of people necessary to safely perform tasks. To the extent allowed by your state, consider telemedicine, including photos, videos, and electronic monitoring, if possible. Follow state and **federal guidelines** for CVI and VCPR requirements during the pandemic.



**Clean and disinfect** frequently touched surfaces daily.



**Practice strict biosecurity** at all production sites. Visitors not necessary for the operation of the business should not be allowed onto the premises.



**Conserve personal protective equipment (PPE).** PPE is in short supply and conservation is critical. Consider reusable but clean and farm-specific clothing.



**Develop and maintain farm and business emergency plans.** Veterinarians can work with producers to identify and implement various strategies for coping with the emergency until operations can return to normal. The **Farm Crisis Operations Planning Tool** can be a useful resource in working through emergency planning. Both veterinarians and producers should have plans in place for continuity of necessary job functions critical for animal health and well-being in the event of staff shortages. Review the **AASV Recommendations for the Depopulation of Swine** and the **AVMA Guidelines for the Depopulation of Animals: 2019 Edition**.



**Consider your own, your employees' and your clients' mental health and well-being.**

The agriculture economy and stress of being a veterinarian can be exacerbated during this uncertain time. Ask your clients and employees how they are doing. Take care of yourself. If you are experiencing a mental health crisis, we encourage you to reach out to colleagues and resources in your community or online, including the AASV well-being page at [aasv.org/Resources/Wellbeing](https://aasv.org/Resources/Wellbeing). Add the Suicide Prevention Hotline number, **800-273-8255**, to your phone contact list today. Encourage coworkers and clients to do the same.



View more resources for swine veterinarians and producers at AASV's COVID-19 webpage at [aasv.org/Resources/publichealth/covid19/](https://aasv.org/Resources/publichealth/covid19/).