

Vet Tech Institute
2020 COVID-19 Protocols
6/1/2020

1. COVID-19

The OSHA guideline defines Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) as a respiratory disease caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus. Infection with can cause illness ranging from mild to severe and, in some cases, can be fatal. Symptoms typically include fever, cough, and shortness of breath. Some people infected with the virus have reported experiencing other non-respiratory symptoms. Other people, referred to as asymptomatic cases, have experienced no symptoms at all. Symptoms can appear anywhere from 2 to 14 days after exposure. The virus is thought to spread mainly through people who are in close contact with each other (6 feet) and through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes. These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs. It may also spread through touching surfaces or objects with the virus on it, then proceeding to touch your mouth, nose, or even eyes. There is currently no vaccine to prevent coronavirus disease in 2020 (COVID-19). Because of the hidden nature of this threat, everyone should rigorously follow the practices specified in this protocol, which facilitates a safe and measured way for skills and lab activities to be completed on-campus. The virus that causes COVID-19 is still circulating in our communities. We need to continue to observe practices that protect everyone, including those who are most vulnerable.

2. School Risk Factors

COVID-19 exposure risk factors include but are not limited to:

- Person-to-person contact
- Contaminated surface contact

3. Plan for Mitigation of Risk Factors

It is the goal of Vet Tech Institute to allow students in to continue progressing through the program using hybrid teaching using Zoom/Moodle and on-campus classes. Faculty will be scheduled such that there is least amount of student contact. Staff and administration will work a staggered schedule to limit student and other employee contact.

Consistent with the guidance from the CDC, the Governor of Pennsylvania, and local authorities, VTI has been deep cleaned and and non-essential clutter has been removed. Students will be scheduled such that there is the least amount possible of moving around on the campus to limit exposure.

- A. All students, faculty, and staff entering the campus will have their temperature taken. Students, faculty, and staff with a temperature above 100.4 will be sent home. Those sent home may not return until they have been fever-free for 72 hours. Students, faculty, and staff are required to stay at home if sick. Sick includes, but is not limited to:
- Cough
 - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - Chills
 - Repeated shaking with chills
 - Muscle pain
 - Headache
 - Sore throat
 - Loss of taste or smell
 - Diarrhea
 - Feeling feverish or a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit
 - Known close contact with a person who has been lab confirmed within the past 14 days to have COVID-19

People with COVID-19 may have mild illness and can recover at home without medical care. If you are feeling sick, stay home. Do not leave your home, except to get medical attention. Students, faculty, and staff may not come to the building for 14 days after the symptoms have subsided. A doctor's note will be required to return. Any missed class time will be made up at a later date without penalty.

Students should, if possible, continue to attend Zoom classes and stay in contact with the instructors and director of education. All staff and faculty need to keep in communication with their direct supervisor while they are quarantined from being on campus.

- B. Students, faculty, and staff are required to wear the appropriate PPE, including masks, the entire time they are on campus. The school will provide masks to those who do not have one or when students are completing surgery skills. The school will provide gloves to students, faculty, and staff.
- C. Classrooms are set up to ensure social distancing. Skills/labs are completed with as much social distancing as possible. To comply with social distance guidelines, each cohort will be divided up into sections.
- D. Students and faculty will wash or sanitize their hands upon entering the classroom or lab. Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after having been in a public place, or after nose blowing, coughing, eating, smoking, sneezing, or using the restroom. If soap and water are not readily available, **use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol**. There are hand sanitizer dispensers located in each classroom and throughout the school including near the elevator doors. When sanitizing, cover all surfaces of your hands and rub them together until they feel dry. All students and school personnel should avoid touching their faces, including their eyes, noses, and mouths.
- E. All students, faculty, and staff are required to clean AND disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily and after use. This includes classroom equipment, tables, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, desks, phones, and keyboards. The disinfectant spray or wipes is provided in each classroom and work area. Students must wipe down the work area before and after the skill/lab completion with a disinfectant supplied by the school. The student must also wipe down his or her space at the beginning and conclusion of each session. School employees must clean and disinfect work areas upon arrival, throughout the day and after the workday. Hand sanitizer, disinfecting wipes/spray bottles and paper towels, and soap is readily available to all.
- F. Thorough cleaning/disinfecting is completed nightly by a cleaning company using cleaning and disinfection procedures (e.g., using cleaners and water to pre-clean surfaces before applying an EPA-registered disinfectant to frequently touched surfaces or objects for appropriate contact times as indicated on the product's label) that are suitable for SARS-CoV-2.
- G. Signage addressing COVID-19 symptoms, mask reminders, and best hygiene practices are hung in classrooms, labs, restrooms, and at the building entrance.
- H. Student lounges, learning resource center, and areas of typical student congregation are set up for social distancing. As many doors as possible are propped open. Drinking fountains are blocked off.
- I. Outside visitors are permitted on campus by appointment and must follow the same PPE guidelines as students and employees and follow proper social distancing.

4. Campus Exposure

Upon exposure, Vet Tech Institute will:

- Close off and ventilate areas visited by that individual
- Wait a minimum of 24 hours, or as long as practical, before beginning cleaning and disinfection
- Clean and disinfect all spaces, especially commonly used rooms and shared equipment
- Identify and notify employees who were in close contact with that individual (within about 6 feet for about 10 minutes)

5. Student, Faculty, or Staff Exposure

If you come into close contact with (within 6 feet for several minutes), someone who has COVID-19:

- Quarantine at home
 - If you get sick: Follow the "People with COVID-19" guidelines
 - If you do not get sick: You may return to school or work after 14 days since contact

If anyone in your household has COVID-19:

- Quarantine at home
 - If you get sick: Follow the "People with COVID-19" guidelines
 - If you do not get sick: You must quarantine for 14 days AFTER the person in your household is released from quarantine at home

People with COVID-19

You can stop home quarantine under the following conditions:

If you do not have a test to determine if you are still contagious, you can leave home after these three things have happened:

- You have had no fever for at least 72 hours (three full days of no fever without the use of medicine that reduces fevers) **AND**;
- Symptoms have improved (for example, when your cough or shortness of breath have improved) **AND**;
- At least ten days have passed since your symptoms first appeared

If you are tested to determine if you are still contagious, you can stop home quarantine after these three things have happened:

- You no longer have a fever (without the use of medicine that reduces fevers) **AND**;
- Other symptoms have improved (for example, when your cough or shortness of breath have improved) **AND**;
- You received two negative tests in a row, 24 hours apart. Your doctor will follow the CDC guidelines.