

Guidance for Animal Boarding and Daycare Facilities During Re-Opening

The state's framework to resume business operations — “Ad Astra: A Plan to Re-Open Kansas” — provides guidance for businesses statewide as they resume operations. As of Tuesday, May 26, 2020, these are no longer enforceable under a statewide executive order, but they remain in place **as recommendations only** for individuals and businesses across Kansas. Statewide travel-related quarantines established by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) are still in effect.

It is important to note that **local governments retain the authority to impose more restrictive orders or provisions**, and there no longer exists a statewide protection for those businesses performing essential functions as previously identified in the Kansas Essential Functions Framework (KEFF).

We strongly encourage facilities to exercise ongoing safety measures to ensure that their employees remain healthy and they can continue to function, and also to assure their customers and community that the facility provides a safe, reliable environment.

What should animal boarding and daycare facilities be doing during Re-Opening?

- Managers of these facilities should continue to implement operational changes to protect their employees.
- The following best practices have been developed to ensure continuity of operations and protection of animal health and welfare while also safeguarding the health of your workers and their families.
- Central to the efforts to protect public health within your organization are these principles:
 - Maintain at least six feet of distance between individuals, be they customers or employees, as much as possible.
 - Follow fundamental cleaning and public health practices detailed on coronavirus.kdheks.gov.
 - Avoid instances in which large groups of individuals are in one location and unable to maintain a six-foot distance with only infrequent or incidental moments of closer proximity. This includes limiting areas and instances in which physical distancing is not maintained, such as in entrances, lobbies, break rooms, etc.

Best Practices to Protect Employees and Volunteers

There is no evidence that companion animals, including pets, can spread COVID-19 to people or that they might be a source of infection. The virus spreads primarily from person to person. The health and safety of employees and volunteers should be the focus of every animal boarding and daycare facility.

- As much as possible, limit human-to-human contact. This may include curbside service, online histories, phone/online check-in procedures, telemedicine, and other practices.
- Limit staff to only essential employees as much as possible, to minimize human-to-human interaction.
- Employees who are sick or who have been exposed to COVID-19 should not work.
- Proper social distancing, such as retrieving animals from vehicles, should be put in place and interactions with customers should be limited as much as possible.
- Wash your hands frequently for at least 20 seconds with soap and warm water before eating, after using the bathroom, coughing or sneezing, and touching surfaces. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available and there is no visible dirt on your hands.
- Frequently sanitize common areas with EPA-registered antimicrobial products for use against COVID-19 that are safe to use in and around the animals.
- Practice cleaning and disinfection protocols, and provide handwashing stations, hand sanitizer, and cleaning wipes throughout the facility.

For current information about Kansas' response to COVID-19, go to the Kansas COVID-19 Resource Center at www.covid.ks.gov.