



# COVID-19 GENERAL RISK ASSESSMENT

COVID-19 has changed the way veterinary physiotherapists can work. This risk assessment is for the protection of the veterinary physiotherapist and owners involved in each case. This risk assessment has been created to comply with the current National Association of Veterinary Physiotherapist (NAVP) guidelines.

## Prior to your Appointment

- Please inform me if yourself or anyone in your household is over 60 or classed as clinically vulnerable, clinically extremely vulnerable or shielding. Clinically vulnerable people are those who are:
  - Pregnant
  - Aged 70 or over (regardless of medical condition)
  - Under 70 with an underlying health condition listed below (anyone instructed to get a flu jab each year on medical grounds):
    - Chronic (long-term) mild to moderate respiratory diseases such as asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), emphysema or bronchitis.
    - Chronic heart disease, such as heart failure
    - Chronic kidney disease
    - Chronic liver disease, such as hepatitis
    - Chronic neurological conditions, such as Parkinson's disease, motor neurone disease, multiple sclerosis (MS) or cerebral palsy
    - Diabetes
    - A weekend immune system as the result of certain conditions or medications being taken (such as steroid tablets).
    - Seriously overweight (a Body Mass Index (BMI) of 40 or over

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**If anyone in yourself or anyone within your household falls into one or more of these categories then it may be necessary to postpone appointments for the foreseeable future.**

- Please inform me if yourself or a household member has had a positive COVID-19 test, is waiting for a test or results from a test, has been told to self isolate or is exhibiting signs of COVID-19
  - New persistent cough
  - Fever (high temperature)
  - Loss or change to taste or smell

**If anyone in yourself or anyone within your household falls into one of these categories then it may be necessary to postpone appointments until it is safe to enter the household.**

- To minimise time spent in contact a new or updated case history will be taken prior to the appointment.
- A safe space must be provided for the assessment, this may be outside or in a garage/ outbuilding however if this is not available a large room with good ventilation would make a good alternative. (We can discuss an ideal area on the phone prior to your appointment)
- Please let me know if you need me to bring a soft bed for your dog to lie on during the appointment.
- A maximum of 2 appointments will be booked per day. This is to ensure that I am able to change clothing and thoroughly clean my hands with soap and water between appointments and to avoid the risk of transmitting COVID-19 between households.
- Any forms which need to be completed prior to the appointment e.g. consent forms will be sent via email to be signed before the appointment.

## **During your Appointment**

- All persons to wear PPE (masks) throughout the appointment. If required surgical masks and gloves are available for your protection during the appointment.
- Only one person to be present at the time of the appointment.
- To avoid me touching your door handles, surfaces etc please ensure that there is a clear area for the treatment and door are left open.

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- I will clean my hands with hand sanitiser prior to your appointment, if you require I am happy to wash my hands with soap and water prior to touching anything within your property.
- Please keep a 2 meter distance during the appointment. There may be times where you could be required to handle your pet. At these time the distance will be less than 2 meters and therefore it is vital that PPE is worn.
- Any objects will be cleaned with disinfectants prior to brining into your home and after use.
- Similar to objects there is a small risk of transferring COVID-19 through your pets coat. This risk is minimised by ensuring that my hands are cleaned before touching your pet and after the treatment has finished.
- Any objects touched in the area will be wiped down with disinfectant after use.
- I will sanitise my hands after the treatment has finished.

## Following your Appointment

- For your own safety please ensure that any objects which may have been touched and cannot be easily disinfected (such as bedding) is cleaned after the visit.
- Your pets report containing my assessment findings and treatment plan will be sent to you via email. If you want to discuss these findings further a video/telephone consultation can be arranged.
- Appointments will be kept to a minimum and therefore it may be necessary for some follow up appointments to take place over video or telephone.

Individual risk assessments will be completed and discussed prior to your appointment.

**Veterinary Physiotherapists are allowed to continue work but please do not assume that we are working as normal. Human health needs to be prioritised.**

**I wish to thank you for you support, patience and co-operation during this difficult time.**

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