The Four Cs of Clinical Practice During COVID-19

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CLOSED SPACES</th>
<th>Closed spaces such as exam rooms and vehicles can present an increased risk for COVID-19 transmission. Minimize the use of smaller rooms and increase ventilation (such as maximizing HVAC flow and using fans) if possible.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CROWDED PLACES</td>
<td>Exam rooms and waiting rooms are ideal places for the COVID-19 virus to circulate among people. Help fight transmission by restricting clinic access and limiting the number of people in the clinic at any given time. Practice curbside pickup as much as possible. If a client must accompany their pet, bring the client to an exam room but work on the pet in a separate room. You can speak to the client via phone or video call during the exam if reassurance is required.</td>
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<tr>
<td>CLOSE CONTACT SETTINGS</td>
<td>Situations where people get close (especially when there is talking, yelling, or other aerosol generating procedures) are of particular concern. Maintain two metres of physical distance as much as possible and maximize practices that minimize close contact time such as teledmedicine (phone, video calls, etc.) or hybrid appoints. Ensure everyone is wearing a mask to reduce the spread of droplets and aerosols.</td>
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<tr>
<td>CONTINUOUS</td>
<td>Continuous contact with others increases the risk of transmission. Limiting the time spent with other people can help decrease exposure.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Swiss Cheese Model – COVID-19 Transmission

Each of these control measures can help protect your employees and clients. Each control measure that is added in practice helps increase protection, while removing any decreases protection.

- minimizing the number of people in the clinic at any given time
- keeping people that are sick, have been exposed to someone with COVID-19, or are awaiting COVID-19 testing results out of the clinic
- limiting the number of people in the clinic
- limiting the amount of time people are in the clinic
- practicing physical distancing
- placing barriers between clients and staff
- improving ventilation
- disinfecting surfaces
- wearing masks

Produced in collaboration with Dr. Scott Weese, Ontario Veterinary College’s Centre for Public Health and Zoonoses

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