

CDC Key Points

- Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses. Some cause illness in people, and others cause illness in certain types of animals.
- Some coronaviruses that infect animals can sometimes be spread to people, but this is rare.
- We do not know the exact source of the current outbreak of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). The first infections were thought to be linked to a live animal market, but the virus is now primarily spreading from person to person.
- **At this time, there is no evidence that animals play a significant role in spreading the virus that causes COVID-19.**
- **Based on the limited information available to date, the risk of animals spreading COVID-19 to people is considered to be low.**
- **We are still learning about this virus, but it appears that it can spread from people to animals in some situations.**
- The first case of an animal testing positive for the virus in the United States was in a tiger that had a respiratory illness at a zoo in New York City.
- CDC is aware of a small number of pets, including cats and dogs, reported to be infected with the virus that causes COVID-19, mostly after close contact with people with COVID-19.
- Treat pets as you would other human family members – do not let pets interact with people or animals outside the household. If a person inside the household becomes sick, isolate that person from everyone else, including pets.
- Further studies are needed to understand if and how different animals could be affected by the virus that causes COVID-19 and the role animals may play in the spread of COVID-19.
- This is a rapidly evolving situation and information will be updated as it becomes available.
- For more information, see [COVID-19 and Animals Frequently Asked Questions](#).

Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/animals.html>