

EXAM ROOM PROTOCOL FOR CANINE INFECTIOUS RESPIRATORY DISEASE

PURPOSE: To keep highly contagious and infectious patients isolated from the general population of people and animals.

TEAM MEMBER RESPONSIBLE: Assigned Veterinary Technician or Veterinary Assistant

SUPERVISOR/POINT PERSON: Management Team

TRIAGE PROCESS:

1. If respiratory illness is suspected, place directly in designated isolation room. If it is not available please ask the client to wait in the car with the pet.
2. The triage nurse must get a full visual of the patient. A full TPR cannot be performed until patient is placed in the isolation area, if a designated isolation area is not immediately available.
 - a. Ask the client the following questions:
 - i. When did the cough start?
 - ii. Is your dog eating?
 - iii. Have you noted any vomiting?
 - iv. Has there been rapid or shallow breathing noted?
 - v. Has your dog been boarded, groomed, or at daycare or park in the last two weeks?
 - vi. Does your dog have any previously diagnosed medical conditions, such as heart disease? Have you ever seen a specialist here? Have you been to your veterinarian?
 - b. Let the client know the approximate wait time due to isolation protocols. (Provide client info guide). If you are concerned that patient has a fever or possible pneumonia and we are unable to hospitalize, offer to call another hospital to check availability.
3. Ask client to enter the isolation exam room. Follow Isolation cleaning protocol to bleach and Lysol the vestibule and area after the patient walks through to the set isolation exam room.
4. Ask that the client remain in the room with the door closed at all times.

PATIENT CARE PROCESS:

1. To limit the in and out as well as the quantity of isolation gowns, gloves and shoe covers used, the doctor should perform the TPR, acquire weight, perform exam and provide plan for the client prior to exiting the room.
2. Doctor to relay plan to technician.
3. Technician is to collect supplies, create estimate, and discharges (if confirmed outpatient). Gather all medications needed for discharge as well. This way the technician will only have to use one set of isolation "gear".
4. If the patient needs radiographs, the technician is to put radiology gown and thyroid shield on prior to applying proper isolation attire.

- a. Entering isolation area/exam room:**
 - i. Apply proper isolation attire prior to opening door: booties, gown, gloves and sometimes mask and eye shield.
 - ii. If radiographs are needed, please put radiology gown on first, then proper isolation attire.
- b. While in room:**
 - i. Perform all diagnostics and treatments, review discharges and medications or estimate if patient will be hospitalized.
 - ii. Everything is considered contaminated, walls, exam table, all supplies, chairs, floor, computer, etc.
 - iii. Laundry or garbage accumulated per patient needs to be placed in a plastic garbage bag and removed from exam room.
 - iv. Technician to ask for payment when treatment is finished. Call front desk from exam room phone to alert them to come and get payment. Slip payment back through the door without re-entering. Alert client that when they hear the knock on the other door that it will be safe to exit the room and immediately head outside.
- c. Exiting Isolation Exam room:**
 - i. Immediately after exiting room, the gown should be removed and discarded, then booties removed and discarded then gloves discarded. Step into foot bathe after removing booties.
 - ii. Walk around to lobby door and ask that the client exit the building.
 - iii. Once again, Lysol and bleach all areas patient has been, including the vestibule.
- d. Cleaning the isolation room:**
 - i. Technician who discharges patient from isolation is responsible for breaking down isolation room, and preparing the suite for next patient.
 - ii. Discard all unused disposable supplies from isolation suite.
 - iii. Clean floor and walls of all debris/hair.
 - iv. Fill bucket with dilute bleach at concentration 1:30. This should be remade every 24 hours at the minimum.
 - v. Dip cloth in bleach bucket and clean every surface and all non-disposable supplies: walls and doors, cleaning supply bottles, baby scale, clipper, sharps container, oxygen supplies,
 - vi. Bleach all reusable supplies (thermometer, stethoscope, alcohol, Chlorhexidine and h202 bottles, dry erase marker, bandage scissors, and lube). Allow bleach to remain on surface for 10 minutes before wiping away.
 - vii. Laundry: Place used laundry bag in a garbage bag from inside the cabinet. Tie the bag shut and add this to the laundry (after you have bleached everything and have removed your isolation PPE.)

- viii. Garbage: Empty garbage container by placing dirty garbage bag in a non-isolation garbage bag. Leave this bag open and place outside door of isolation..
- ix. Clean floor with wash cloth with bleach solution.
- x. Remove and discard in this order, gown, booties, and gloves. Place all items in garbage then tie bag closed.
- xi. Take garbage outside right away.

ICU Ward, Treatment area and lobby should be cleaned and decontaminated twice daily.

INVOICING AND RECORDING:

For outpatient estimate, use either the travel sheet entitled Respiratory or the Group Item Respiratory Group. The estimate can then be finalized, and all charges on the estimate will go to the PVL. The opportunity to process prescription labels will present itself once the estimate is finalized.

Be sure to include ER Medical Waste Disposal (invoice item code: WASTE) for outpatient and hospitalized patients suspected of having a contagious disease. This is to cover the cost of our isolation procedures and supplies that are utilized in the exam room. Isolation fees for hospitalized patients still apply.