



NACA Statement on Officer Safety During the COVID-19 Pandemic

For the safety of our officers and the public they serve, NACA is advising all officers to take extra measures to mitigate the short and long-term effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. These measures include protecting themselves properly to reduce risk related to the SARS-CoV-2 virus, as well as working to manage and minimize the number of new animals entering our shelters.

The primary method for officers to protect themselves remains appropriate social distancing practices whenever possible and wearing an appropriate cloth mask during normal interactions to reduce the risk of spreading the virus.

Out of an abundance of caution officers should make every effort to avoid entering a residence on any call for service. If an officer must enter the home of an assumed healthy resident, he/she should take additional precautions including a facemask and disposable gloves. The officer should continue to make every effort to maintain appropriate social distancing and minimize contact with the residents.

If an animal is placed in a vehicle, the vehicle should be cleaned and disinfected utilizing the appropriate process for the chemical being used once the animal is removed from the vehicle. See the [ASPCA Shelter Disinfectant Quick Reference Guide](#) for dilution and contact time guidance.

All equipment including but not limited to leashes, crates, control poles, grabbers, nets, etc. should be cleaned and disinfected after use on each animal.

Recommended PPE for officers to have on hand include:

- A N-95 or greater respirator or facemask (for use in non-COVID related situations or when an N-95 or greater respirator is not available in a COVID related situation)
- Eye protection (i.e., goggles or face shield that fully covers the front and sides of the face).
 - ❑ Personal eyeglasses and contact lenses are NOT considered adequate eye protection.
- Disposable nitrile gloves. Gloves should be changed when they become torn or heavily contaminated.
- An isolation/surgical gown, coveralls, or other disposable or reusable/washable clothing



Recommended cleaning/sanitation supplies include:

- Hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol
- Spray disinfectant (Accelerated Hydrogen Peroxide or Potassium Peroxymonosulfate when possible)
- Disinfectant wipes (Accelerated Hydrogen Peroxide or Potassium Peroxymonosulfate when possible)

General personal care recommendations:

- All personnel should avoid touching their face while working
- Hand sanitizer should be used frequently
- Whenever possible wash your hands! Hand sanitizer should not take place of washing your hands and should only be used until you can get to a place where you can wash your hands
- Avoid shaking hands
- After completing the response and before entering their response vehicle, officers should remove and dispose of any PPE used and perform hand hygiene to avoid soiling the vehicle compartment (<https://www.cdc.gov/hai/pdfs/ppe/ppe-sequence.pdf>).

Working in the animal care and control field presents unique challenges because of the nature of the job to respond directly to residences where a person may be known or suspected of having COVID-19. In cases where you are responding to the home of a known or suspected COVID-19 patient see the NACA Statement on [Removing Pets from Homes of Residents that are Confirmed or Suspected to be Infected With COVID-19](#).

For ongoing information, please continue referring to all updates from the Centers for Disease Control: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>