

COVID-19: BEST PRACTICE

Cattle Vets

6th January 2021

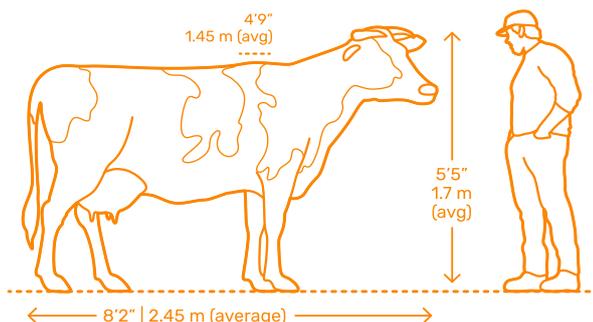


BEFORE YOU VISIT:

- ✓ Is your visit **justified**? Will it impact on health, welfare or food chain supply if not carried out as scheduled?
- ✓ Check all farm staff are healthy, not self isolating and not experiencing any signs of Covid-19 and will adhere to social distancing.
- ✓ Check whether there are clinically vulnerable or extremely vulnerable individuals present on the farm.
- ✓ If a client is experiencing symptoms of Covid-19 or is clinically vulnerable, ensure that they are not present during the visit (consider sending two members of the practice team if assistance will be required) and communicate digitally.

DURING THE VISIT:

- ✓ Wear clean, disinfected protective clothing.
- ✓ Wear gloves, change these regularly and do not touch your face.
- ✓ **OBSERVE SOCIAL DISTANCING: Stand at least 2m (a cow length) away at all times.**
- ✓ Where face to face interaction is inevitable then this should only be with **ONE person** per visit.
- ✓ If the client is required to assist in handling or restraint, then ensure that they also wear clean gloves.
- ✓ Where social distancing is not possible, or you are working inside, ensure all those present take all necessary precautions to reduce the risk of viral transmission; ensure everyone is wearing a face mask (unless exempt) and when social distancing guidelines are breached that this is kept to an absolute minimum. **Safeguarding human health is the priority.**
- ✓ **Do not enter the farmhouse or any other residential area and do not accept any drinks or food.**
- ✓ Before leaving the farm ensure that you disinfect any areas that you may have touched/come into contact with and could act as a fomite in the event you are infected with Covid-19 but not yet displaying symptoms.
- ✓ Fully disinfect all PPE and equipment at the end of the visit and wash your hands thoroughly.



FURTHER ADVICE:

- ✓ **Keep time on farm to a minimum.**
- ✓ Work from home or vehicle where possible and only visit the practice to collect medicines, sterilise equipment, drop off samples and dispense medicines. If visiting the practice, try to do so when minimal staff are present.
- ✓ Equipment should not be shared between vets. If it is absolutely necessary, then it should be thoroughly disinfected before and after handover.
- ✓ Keep all vehicles clean, tidy and regularly disinfect all surfaces which are touched regularly (steering wheel, door handles etc.)
- ✓ Group training courses should be postponed or held virtually. Where training is required in order to maintain animal health and welfare then this should be provided on a one-to-one basis and follow all guidance to ensure the safety of the trainer and trainee.

*Disclaimer: This factsheet is based on available advice as on 06.01.2021.
Please continue to check the official Government and RCVS guidelines:*

www.gov.uk/coronavirus
www.rcvs.org.uk

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