



Hello Dog Parents,

By now, you are likely aware that cases of persons infected with COVID-19 have been documented in Missoula County. The situation is, of course, concerning to us all. We want you to know that we are monitoring the situation carefully out of concern for our staff and clients, whom we consider our family and friends. Accordingly, we are following all CDC guidelines for avoiding the spread of COVID-19 (and all flu bugs for that matter).

Here at Alpine Canine we are doing all we can to maintain a healthy, happy environment for our clients and their dogs including the following:

- We have always used top-of-the-line disinfectants and we thoroughly clean our entire facility every day. We are adding additional cleanings throughout the day, including door handles, counter tops and other surfaces that are touched by multiple people.
- While we already have hand sanitizer stations in many places throughout the facility, we have stocked additional sanitizers at our front desk for client and staff use.
- Along with regular hand washing and sanitizing, all staff have been instructed to sanitize hands after every cash or credit card transaction.
- All staff have been instructed to stay home if they feel ill and seek medical attention if needed.

We are grateful that our dogs here can enjoy ample fresh air in our play yards and quiet time in our indoor facility. During the design and construction of our facility, we utilized as much nonporous material as possible to allow for proper sanitization.

Now, here is what we would like to ask of you, our clients, to ensure our community of dog friends stays healthy:

- Adhere to the recommendations of the CDC for minimizing transmission.
- When in our office, please do your best to maintain "social distance" from others. CDC guidelines suggest maintaining a distance of at least 6 feet. Please remain behind the gate inside the office by the front counter when dropping off your dog, and wait outside if our office is busy serving other customers.
- Please forgive our staff for not shaking hands or hugging, as we are prone to do. Instead, we are adopting a company policy of virtual high fives and waves as a way to greet and acknowledge our friends.
- If you or a close family member with whom you have regular contact is sick, please stay home. If your dog is in any one of our programs, please do not bring your dog over yourself. It is best to limit the risk of exposure.

What about your dog and COVID-19?

To date, there is no evidence that dogs can catch or carry COVID-19. According to the CDC website, "There is no reason to think that any animal, including pets in the United States, might be a source of infection with this new coronavirus. To date, CDC has not received any reports of pets or other animals becoming sick with COVID-19." If you are concerned about your dog picking up and carrying germs from another dog, client or one of our staff and bringing them home to you, we understand if you choose to keep your dog home until more is known about this troubling virus or until the local threat of it has passed.

As we all navigate these times, we ask that all of us practice good habits and use good common sense. We want you to know that we here at Alpine Canine are staying informed and being proactive in trying to keep our environment healthy, safe and fun. As always, we welcome your input and suggestions and look forward to serving you with welcoming waves and wiggly wags.

Best woofs and wishes,

Brian Daigle and The Alpine Canine Team