



THErapy DOGS NATIONWIDE
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Coronavirus (covid-19) workplace safety risk assessment

Assessor: Leisl de Lafontaine, Trustee

Assessment date: 18 August 2020

Review date: 1 November 2020

Business name: Therapy Dogs Nationwide (TDN)

Business type: Charity

The purpose of this document is to ensure the safety of all staff, clients and visitors of TDN as we prepare to rebuild the charity and volunteers return to visiting. The priority being to ensure TDN is as 'COVID secure' as we can be by implementing control measures to counter specific areas of risk as highlighted by this assessment.

This document is to be used alongside the current risk assessment filed in the health & safety manual however, any advice in this document will take precedent over any conflicting statements found within the existing risk assessment.

Notes and other useful information/observations

PPE

- Hand wash is readily available, and volunteers should wash their hands at regular intervals during the day and certainly after performing an 'at risk' task as highlighted above. Always use a disposable hand towel to dry hands.
- Hand sanitiser is also readily available to use however, hand washing is said to be more effective.
- Other PPE including nitrile gloves and face masks are also available however, again hand washing and maintaining a 2m social distance is said to be more effective and these items should not be used in preference to hand washing and social distancing.
- Volunteers to be shown how to remove and dispose of gloves safely.

Personal admin

- Make sure you sneeze and cough into a tissue and dispose of it immediately and not put in a pocket.
- Try to make sure you avoid touching your eyes, nose and face.
- Avoid using or looking at mobile phones. Where possible, do not take them into an establishment.
- Wash hands on arrival at the establishment and then as per notes above.

Further information

- New guidelines in relation to disinfectant dilution ratios and cleaning routines will be communicated to all staff.

Facilities that normally use therapy animals may not allow them at this time because people in many of these settings are at higher risk for serious illness with COVID-19. Follow local guidance and facility protocols for social distancing, face coverings, and other ways to prevent COVID-19 from spreading. If therapy animals are invited to a facility or other setting, follow the steps below.

- Therapy animal visits require some level of contact between clients and the therapy animal team. When possible, keep animals at least 2m away from people and animals not participating in the visit. Handlers and participants should wear a cloth face covering during the visit.
- Do not take therapy animals to visits if the animals are sick or have tested positive for the virus that causes COVID-19.
- When deciding if it is safe to visit a household, refer to CDC guidance on When You Can be Around Others After You Had or Likely Had COVID-19.
- People with symptoms of COVID-19 should not touch, be close to, or interact with therapy animals. If someone was sick with COVID-19, they should wait until they recover to interact with therapy animals.
- Before and after every contact, the handler and anyone petting or having contact with the animal should wash their hands.
- Do not use items that multiple people handle, particularly if items are brought to multiple facilities between therapy visits (for example, leashes, harnesses, toys, or blankets). If items like leashes must be brought between facilities, disinfect them after each use or facility.
- Do not let other people handle items that go into the animal's mouth, such as toys and treats.

- Wash items such as toys, collars, leashes, harnesses, therapy vests and scarves, and food/water bowls frequently.
- Do not allow therapy animals to lick or give 'kisses'.
- Do not wipe or bathe therapy animals with chemical disinfectants, alcohol, hydrogen peroxide, or any other products not approved for animal use. There is currently no evidence that the virus can spread to people from the skin, fur, or hair of pets.
- Do not put face coverings on therapy animals. Covering an animal's face could harm the animal

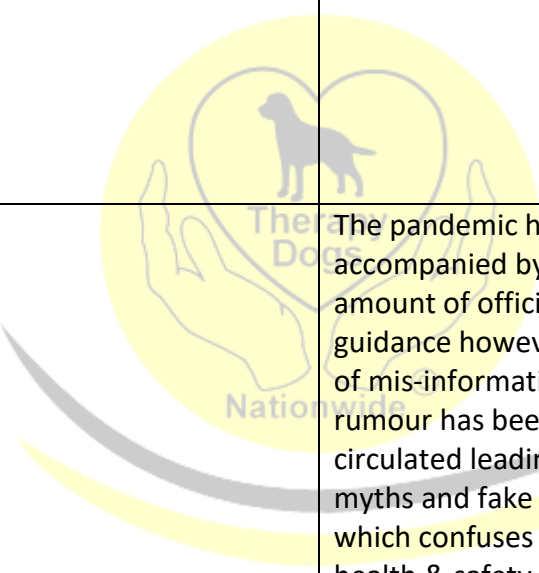
Remember increased hand washing and increased environmental cleaning!!



Identified hazards	Specific areas of potential risk to volunteers and/or clients	Who might be at risk	Control measures
<p>As the charity rebuilds after lockdown, the risk of an individual catching the coronavirus – covid-19 will increase as volunteers return to visiting.</p>	<p>Visiting establishments</p>	<p>Volunteers & clients</p>	<p>An agreed time for volunteers to visit to avoid more than one external visitor on site at a time.</p> <p>All TDN uniform to, including collars, leads, bandanas & jackets to be washed at >40⁰c prior to visiting. No multi establishment visits to be permitted</p> <p>Dogs to be sprayed with Leucillin antiseptic spray on arrival</p> <p>2m distance to be observed by volunteers, staff and clients</p> <p>Wash hands on arrival, between each client / interaction and before leaving.</p> <p>Gloves may be worn; however, it will be far more effective to wash hands between clients</p> <p>All volunteers to take hand sanitiser on visits.</p> <p>All volunteers must have written permission to visit each establishment AND a copy must be received at the TDN office.</p> <p>All volunteers must agree to adhere to each establishments own Risk Assessment Protocols and if at all concerned must decline the visit.</p>
<p>The virus can be passed from person to person by via droplets and exhaling/inhaling. In addition, people can pick up the virus by touching contaminated</p>	<p>Visiting establishments</p>	<p>Volunteers & clients</p>	<p>No visiting dogs from self-isolating households or from symptomatic volunteers.</p> <p>Volunteers must inform TDN AND the establishment, immediately if they feel unwell or know that they have been in proximity of anyone with C-19 within the last 14 days.</p> <p>Volunteers must not enter rooms of or interact with any client who is self isolating or feels unwell or has been in close proximity of anyone with C-19 with the last 14 days.</p>



surfaces and touching their eyes, nose or mouth.			All dogs to be sprayed with Leucillin antiseptic spray. No soft bedding to be used when visiting.
There is some risk that the virus may be carried on dogs' fur and their belongings	Visiting dogs / and or volunteers	Volunteers & clients.	All TDN uniform to, including collars, leads, bandanas & jackets to be washed at >40 ⁰ c prior to visiting. No multi establishment visits to be permitted No soft bedding to be used when visiting.
The virus can survive for up to 72 hours out of the body on surfaces	Handling dogs leads etc..	Volunteers & clients	Minimal handling of dogs leads always wash hands after touching the leads Clients must wash hands before and after interaction with the dog.
	Using the toilet at the establishments	Volunteers & visitors	It is preferred that you do not visit the toilet during visits. However, if you must, leave your dog in your vehicle and ensure you wash your hands afterwards.
	Passing in the main doorway & corridors in establishments.	Volunteers & clients	Volunteers, staff and clients to be observant and adhere to 2m distance at all times People are easily visible in these areas so stepping back to allow colleagues to pass at 2m distance is achievable
	Leaving the establishment	Volunteers	Remove all TDN uniform from the Dog and place in a plastic bag. Use hand sanitiser before getting in your car. All TDN uniform to, including collars, leads, bandanas & jackets to be washed at >40 ⁰ c prior to visiting. No multi establishment visits to be permitted
	Frequent opening and closing of doors.	Staff	Where possible, volunteers must let staff open and close all doors. Frequent hand washing Avoid touching eyes, nose & face Frequent wiping/disinfecting of all areas

	<p>Volunteers and colleagues or members of their household becoming unwell with suspected covid-19</p>	<p>Volunteers & clients</p>	<p>If a volunteer becomes unwell with a new continuous cough, high temperature or any other covid symptoms, they will be sent home and advised to follow the government self-isolating guidance</p> <p>Any individual who may have had contact, even at a 2m distance will be informed that the staff member is self-isolating</p> <p>All surfaces that a symptomatic person has come into contact with must be disinfected and the member of staff cleaning should wear gloves</p> <p>The waste from this cleaning process should be double bagged, tied off and placed in a holding area for at least 72 hours before putting into the general waste</p> <p>Any volunteer will be asked to inform us immediately if they or a member of their household is self-isolating</p>
	<p>The pandemic has been accompanied by a vast amount of official guidance however, a lot of mis-information and rumour has been circulated leading to myths and fake news which confuses vital health & safety measures</p>	<p>Volunteer & clients</p>	<p>Ensure that clear guidance is communicated to all volunteers and clients</p> <p>The guidance will be reviewed weekly or sooner if necessary, to ensure up to date information is obtained. Procedures will be updated if needed and communicated to staff and clients immediately</p>

Therapy Dogs Nationwide Registered Charity No. 1167622

Trustees: Eileen Slattery (Chair), Eileen Hodge, Mary Oliver MBE, Ruth Boyes BEM, Leisl de Lafontaine

Patron: Tony Hodge

Consultant: Maureen Hennis