



# SCHOOL OF VETERINARY NURSING

## Lynwood School of Veterinary LSVN Infection Control Policy

### Introduction

LSVN is committed to promoting the health and welfare of all learners, staff, and visitors. Our priorities lie in ensuring that all work undertaken within our facilities, are delivered in a safe manner that complies fully not just with government guidance but with best practice.

Despite this policy being set up in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, we will constantly adapt this, and the policy will remain in place going forward to prevent the future spread of pathogens.

Learners and staff are in close contact as sessions provided are individual and personal, learners are also sharing equipment and interacting with one another within these. These situations allow the spread by direct contact, respiratory means, contact with infected items, blood borne passed during first aid or gastrointestinal spread due to contamination of food or drink.

### Aims.

The Guidance and procedures contained in this policy are designed to ensure that everyone remains healthy. While we accept that there will be infectious illnesses that affect learners, staff and visitors, this policy is designed to ensure that the effects of any outbreak of illness are minimised to reduce the spread. The aims of this policy are to ensure that:

- No learner suffers an illness because of attending LSVN facilities.
- Appropriate risk assessments, systems, checks and work practice in line with legal guidance and best practice are in place to prevent the spread of infection to learners, staff, visitors, contractors or volunteers
- Any individuals suffering from an illness are treated appropriately and sympathetically to aid their recovery and to minimise the spread of infection to others.

### Methods and Key principles of a return to visiting Lynwood School of Veterinary Nursing

At all times we will be following the Department for Education, RCVS and CQ guidelines for advice and protocols and will be reviewed on a regular basis thereafter by the Heads of School.

### Attending LSVN and Exclusion

No staff or learner who has current symptoms of COVID-19 or has had a positive PCR test should attend sessions at LSVN. If you are living with someone who is showing symptoms and you have received both vaccinations at least 14 days prior to contact with a Covid case, you do not need to self-isolate but must get a PCR test as soon as possible. You can obtain a free PCR test to test at home online or by calling 119 or going to a test site. As double-jabbed people identified as close contacts are still at risk of being infected, people are advised to consider other precautions such as



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wearing a face covering in enclosed spaces, and limit contact with other people, especially with anyone who is clinically extremely vulnerable. They will not be required to self-isolate while they wait for the results of the PCR test. Anyone who tests positive following the PCR test will still be legally required to self-isolate, irrespective of their vaccination status or age in order to break onward chains of transmission. Meanwhile anyone who develops COVID-19 symptoms should self-isolate and get a PCR test, and remain in isolation until the result comes back. No persons who have been contacted by contact tracing and ordered to self-isolate should attend sessions at LSVN.

LSVN recommends travelling to our facilities by car and alone (unless you are travelling with an individual you live/work/in a social bubble with) where possible. If taking public transport, we would advise for masks to be worn whilst travelling to and from college.

LSVN reserves the right to ask any staff member, learner, or visitor to leave the premises and return home if the Heads of School feel they are at risk or at risk of spreading diseases and may be asked to have their temperature taken.

Individuals who are displaying symptoms or sent away for testing must provide evidence of test results to LSVN within 24 hours.

### **Enhanced Infection Control Measures Hand washing:**

Hand washing is one of the most important and effective ways of controlling the spread of any infection, especially diarrhoea and vomiting and respiratory diseases such as COVID-19.

Hand washing advice is displayed in all toilets, taught during infection control training both in theory and in clinical settings. Liquid soap and warm water with paper towels for drying are recommended, communal towels will not be provided at this time to limit the spread of infection.

Staff and learners will be expected to wash their hands immediately on arrival at LSVN, and frequently throughout the day, everyone should wash their hands after using the toilet, before and after eating or handling food and throughout the day.

Learners are to wipe down the touch point areas in the toilet after each use using the PPE and disinfectant provided.

### **Environment:**

LSVN will impose Government advised social distancing measures throughout the premises if required, please be respectful of these as there is a need to protect yourself and others.

Windows and doors will be used to ensure good ventilation throughout rooms, so please **dress appropriately to avoid getting cold.**

All surfaces at touch points will be wiped down during the day with an effective disinfectant.



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Learners are required to bring in their own stationary, laptops/tablets etc. and not to share these with others. LSVN will not be able to provide pens etc. and will be limiting paper handouts to essential needs only. Access to notes will still be available through Google classroom

In these unprecedented times we reserve the right to change the timings for taught sessions as we feel this is necessary to reduce the numbers of learners in college and contact time with your tutors and peers. You will, however, be fully informed, in advance, of any changes.

If learners wish to speak privately to a staff member, this is still possible in the staff offices, but we ask for only 1 learner in each office at any one time to enable us to maintain the social distancing guidelines.

All classroom desks have had plexiglass screens fitted and we ask learners not to alter these during this time. Learners will be required to wipe down their own seating area at the end of the day.

### **Personal Protective Equipment:**

Facemasks/face coverings must be worn when moving around the building, entering and leaving but may be taken off when seated. Facemasks will not be provided by LSVN

Any practical tasks will be limited during this time, but if any activities were to be carried out, gloves and hand washing facilities will be provided and should be implemented.

### **Food and drink:**

Due to the risk posed to staff and learners, we are currently unable to provide cutlery, crockery or cups but the kitchen is open to students for use of the microwave.

You are welcome to have drinks and food in the classrooms, however, please can we ask that these are either in sealed containers or those with lids. Food may only be consumed in the classroom or outside areas.

We encourage you to walk outside and get fresh air during break times.

### **Coughs, and Sneezing:**

Coughs and Sneezes spread diseases. Staff and learners should be encouraged to cover both nose and mouth with a disposable tissue and wash their hands when they have disposed of the tissue. Tissues should be flushed down the toilet after use not put in the bin.

### **Animals**

No learner pets should be currently brought on site.