

Pandemic Protocol

March 3, 2020

Several cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) in Washington State have been confirmed in Snohomish and King Counties. Many news outlets have been using the word “pandemic” to refer to the virus. It is important to remember that this word is about spread, not severity.

While COVID-19 is not yet a pandemic, it could become one, and if it does the timeline could move quickly. Vulnerable populations include infants, those over 50, those over 80, and those with compromised immune systems. It is important that we protect ourselves and one another during this time and during all periods of increased risk to our community, including flu season.

At this stage, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) has recommended that practices be put into place to stop the spread of the virus and to be prepared if the situation escalates. In order to keep our shelter staff, volunteers and visitors as safe and healthy as possible, Purrfect Pals will be temporarily observing the following protocols.

1. Don't come in if you have a fever, cough or shortness of breath.

- If you show symptoms of illness (especially fever, cough, or shortness of breath), wear a facemask.
- If you take public transit, consider adjusting your schedule so you're not traveling during rush hour.

2. Increase sanitation practices.

- Wash your hands (for at least 20 seconds) and use hand sanitizer during the following times:
 - When you enter or leave the Purrfect Pals property
 - Before, during and after preparing food and eating
 - After blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing (Use a tissue and discard it)
 - After using the bathroom
 - After interacting with the cats
 - After touching garbage
 - After handling dirty and soiled laundry
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth
- Always cover your mouth when you cough or sneeze, and do so into your elbow

3. Use Rescue at the recommended strengths.

- After using any surface – including workstations, desks, and tables – run a Rescue wipe over it.
- Use paper towels
- Soak sponges in Rescue before using and put in laundry after use.