

Guidelines for HABIT visits during COVID-19

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, HABIT visits have been suspended until further notice. Limited visitation may be allowed on a per agency basis. You should not resume visits if you have not been contacted by your HABIT monitor. Wearing an appropriate facemask is required in addition to following any other safety protocol set forth by the HABIT facility you are visiting. If allowed to resume HABIT visits, please follow the guidelines below.

Do **NOT** make a HABIT visit if:

- You have been told to quarantine/isolate by a medical provider or the health department.
- You have been in close contact (i.e., less than 6 feet of physical distance) for 10 minutes or longer with someone who has or is suspected of having COVID-19 in the last 14 days.
- You have a cough, shortness of breath, or difficulty breathing that is not explained by a pre-existing condition
- In the past 48 hours, you have had two or more of the following symptoms and they cannot be explained by a pre-existing condition: fever, chills, repeated shaking chills, fatigue, muscle pain, body aches, headache, sore throat, nasal congestion or runny nose, vomiting, diarrhea, or loss of taste or smell. If you have these symptoms, please contact your health care provider for guidance.

Before your visit:

1. Take your temperature: If your temperature is 100.4 degrees or higher, do not make a visit. Contact your facility contact and let them know you will not be able to attend.
2. Make sure you have a facemask and hand sanitizer in addition to your HABIT IDs and your dog's HABIT scarf.
3. Use a leash and collar/harness that can be wiped down or laundered.

During your visit:

1. Put on your facemask before entering the facility.
2. Follow any additional guidelines the facility may have for COVID-19 safety including but not limited to maintaining physical distance, limiting travel in the building, and washing your hands/using hand sanitizer.
3. If they are not already doing so, ask the person you are visiting to put on a facemask before petting your dog.
4. Encourage people to wash or sanitize their hands before and after petting your dog.
5. Limit the number of people petting your dog at one time.

6. Maintain as much distance as possible between you and those petting your dog while still maintaining control of your dog.
7. Use hand sanitizer frequently, particularly if you must change locations in the facility and upon leaving the facility.

After your visit:

1. Put your dog's HABIT scarf in a plastic bag until it can be washed.
2. If possible, change out your dog's collar/harness and leash, putting the one used during the visit in a plastic bag until it can be washed. Alternatively, wipe off the leash with a disinfecting wipe.
3. You may want to wipe off your dog's paws with a wet washcloth or pet-friendly cleaner. Please do not use any type of disinfectant wipe or product on your pet that was not made specifically for use on animals. Use of bleach, alcohol, or other disinfectants not intended for use on animals may cause harm to your pet.

If you are diagnosed with COVID-19 within 2 weeks of your last HABIT visit, let your monitor know so the appropriate steps can be taken to inform your HABIT facility.

Please note that these guidelines may change as the situation and policies regarding COVID-19 change at the local and state levels.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your HABIT monitor or your HABIT office:

Knoxville and East Tennessee: habit@utk.edu or (865) 974-5633

Middle Tennessee: habitmt@utk.edu or (615) 626-0313