

In an effort to decrease exposure risk to clients, and to our students, faculty, staff-and to their families, the Veterinary Health Center has established a four-phase contingency plan to respond to COVID-19. The phases are based on recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The Veterinary Health Center is currently operating under Phase 2 conditions. We will update this information if circumstances change.

The four phases are as follows:

Phase 1 – None-to-minimal evidence of community transmission

The VHC will operate as normal with exceptions to changes in client receiving and screening, and enhanced infection control. Students will be allowed to engage in clinical rotations as normal. Social distancing will be practiced as much as possible and when students are not engaged in case management, larger spaces, such as those in the Veterinary Medicine Building, or remote workspaces will be used for rounds, completion of records and online modules.

Phase 2 – Minimal-to-moderate evidence of community transmission (defined as a Covid-19 positive case Boone County or evidence of community transmission in Missouri)

In addition to the measures outlined above, steps will be taken to reduce the number of students present in the VHC and in ambulatory vehicles. Further, we will begin seeing essential cases only; non-essential cases will not be scheduled. Each section will decide how to reduce student numbers to those essential to operate under this phase. Some sections may need more students than others, but others may be able to operate with few or no students. The goal is to reduce the population at risk in the VHC and reduce potential exposures because the community risk is becoming greater. Individual sections will be given operational discretion that is outlined in each section's plan.

Phase 3 – Substantial community transmission

In phase 3, assuming the VHC is still operational as guided by the Boone County Health Department, it is anticipated that students will no longer participate in face-to-face clinical experiential learning and services will be operated by faculty, house officers and staff only to provide essential (primarily emergency) services to the community. Student education, when possible, will be delivered remotely. The VHC will work closely with the Dean's Office to creatively educate students or reschedule clinical activities.

Phase 4 - VHC Closure – as directed by Boone County Health Department

In the event the VHC is closed, essential emergency services may be provided to large animal clients using our ambulatory service.