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COVID 19 preventive measures in establishments for veterinary education

(Guidelines prepared by REEV MED working group)

Veterinary Faculties are an educational institution that provides applied training to meet the veterinary need of the country in order to i) protect animal health and welfare, ii) develop and breed disease resistant animal breeds with superior productivity, iii) ensure safety food production, iv) to combat zoonotic diseases and to protect public health. In addition to the educational function veterinary faculties serves the society with their animal hospitals, clinics laboratories and affiliated units, as well as conducting scientific research and information with the projects.

It is not possible to talk about the quality of education and service where health cannot be protected. For this reason, in this period during the whole world is struggling with the COVID-19 epidemic, the measures applied and to be implemented by Veterinary Faculties in order to protect public health during the continuation of education, community service and research activities have been prepared in line with the opinions and recommendations of REEV-Med Executive Committee.

COVID-19 spreads especially with fluids from the mouth and nose of infected people. The virus spreads by taking the viruses (SARS-CoV-2) spreading into the air with these fluids directly with the mouth, nose and eyes, or by contacting the hand with the mouth, nose or eyes after touching the infected objects. There is no information that COVID-19 is transmitted from farm animals, cats and dogs, or from food.

In the light of current information, the BIOSAFETY PRECAUTIONS determined by REEV-Med should be followed in order to be protected from COVID-19 disease. In addition, people who show signs of illness, who have tested positive for COVID-19 and / or require quarantine within the scope of contact follow-up must definitely notify the administration of the Faculty.

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EDUCATION MODELS DURING PANDEMIA

Face to Face Education Model

Basic principles in face-to-face education;

- realization of arrangements for maintaining a physical distance of 1.5 m between staff, students and visitors,
- mandatory use of masks in closed areas,
- implementation of measures to reduce the density of students and visitors in the unit area,
- dividing classes into groups to reduce the density of classrooms,
- in order to reduce the density in social areas such as corridors and cafeterias, lessons should be started with 10-minute intervals according to classes,
- taking measures to ensure hand hygiene,
- regular cleaning and disinfection of frequently touched surfaces and classrooms.

Hybrid Education Model

In this model, in order to reduce the student density, contact and exposure time in the faculty building, the distance education model for the theoretical lessons should be planned. The practical lessons should be held in small groups by face-to-face model.

Basic principles of face-to-face practical training;

- realization of regulations for maintaining a physical distance of 1.5 m between staff, students and visitors,
- implementation of measures to reduce the density of students and visitors in the unit area,
- dividing classes into groups to reduce density in practice laboratories and animal hospitals,
- in order to reduce the density in social areas such as corridors and cafeterias, classes should be started with 10-minute intervals according to classes,

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- mandatory use of masks in closed areas,
- taking measures to ensure hand hygiene,
- regular cleaning and disinfection of frequently touched surfaces and classrooms.

Distance Learning Model

In this model, it is planned that all lessons should be carried out by using distance education methods in the determined period in order to prevent student density, contact and exposure in the faculty building.

COVID-19 MEASURES IN INDOOR AREAS OF THE FACULTY

General Principles

- All students and staff who are diagnosed with COVID-19 among family members or close contacts living in the same environment with an infected person are required to report the situation to faculty administration.
- Students and staff who are noticed to be sick (runny nose, cough and sneezing, flu, headache, cold, fever of 37.5 ° C and above, shortness of breath) should be limited to contact with the people around them and they should be made to apply to the health institution. In addition, closely contact persons should be determined.
- Staff and students traveling abroad are required to report the situation to the Dean's office with their documents and spend the first 14 days after their return in quarantine at home.
- Necessary information for protection from COVID-19 should be shared with staff and students regularly.
- Closed areas should be continuously ventilated.
- Cleaning and disinfection processes should continue to be carried out at regular intervals.
- Air conditioning systems should be turned off (except for areas with hepa filter).
- It should be mandatory to use masks in all closed areas.
- Water, soap and disinfectants should be provided throughout ther faculty to ensure hand hygiene.
- Used masks should be thrown into “mask waste bins” placed at various points within the faculty.
- Social distance should be maintained in closed areas.
- Sitting and working order in the educational areas should be adjusted according to social distance rules.

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- All equipment used in common in the social areas of the faculty should be removed.

Building Entrance

- Entrance of the faculty buildings should be controlled.
- People without a mask should not be allowed to enter.
- Entries and exits should be made through different gates.
- Hand disinfectant should be available at the entrances and exits.

Classrooms, Amphitheaters and Seminar Rooms

- Classrooms, amphitheaters and seminar halls with only natural ventilation should be used for training activities.
- Hand sanitizer should be applied at the entrance and exit.
- Seating arrangements should be arranged as one full and one empty in order to maintain social distance in these areas.
- Seating places should be numbered and students should be allowed to sit only in the numbered row assigned to them.
- Classes should be divided into 2 groups to reduce the density.
- Teaching staff should use masks and visors in classrooms.
- Students should wear masks in classrooms. Students without a mask should not be allowed into classrooms.
- Lessons duration should not exceed 40 minutes.
- The doors and windows of these areas should be kept open during the lesson and in between, and the inside should be ventilated.
- These areas should be cleaned and disinfected every day.

Student Practice Laboratories

- Only student practice laboratories with natural ventilation facilities should be used in educational activities.
- Hand disinfectant should be applied at the entrance and exit.
- Seating arrangements should be arranged as one full and one empty in order to maintain social distance in these areas.

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- Seating places should be numbered and students should be allowed to sit only in the numbered row assigned to them.
- Classes should be divided into 2 groups to reduce the density.
- Masks and visors should be used by teaching staff in laboratories.
- In laboratories, students should wear masks in addition to the protective clothing used routinely. Students without a mask should not be admitted to the laboratory.
- Lessons duration should not exceed 40 minutes.
- These areas should be constantly ventilated during the lesson and in between.
- Possible practice lessons should be held outdoors.
- These areas should be cleaned and disinfected every day.

Animal Hospital Examination and Operation Rooms

- Only examination rooms with natural ventilation should be used.
- No visitor entrance should be allowed in the examination rooms to maintain hygiene and social distance. Students should be admitted to the halls with 1 person per 4 m².
- People other than the operators should not be allowed to enter the operation halls. Students should be provided to watch the operation from outside.
- Hand disinfectant should be applied at the entrance and exit.
- Masks and visors should be used in addition to the protective clothing routinely used in the examination and operation rooms.
- Seating arrangement should be arranged as one full and one empty in order to maintain social distance in these areas.
- Seating places should be numbered and students should be allowed to sit only in the numbered row assigned to them.
- Classes should be divided into 2 groups to reduce the density.
- These duration should not exceed 40 minutes.
- These areas should be constantly ventilated during the lesson and in between.
- These areas should be cleaned and disinfected every day.
- Possible examinations should be carried out outdoors.

Animal Hospital and Clinics Closed Areas

- Students and visitors should only be allowed to enter areas with natural ventilation.
- Hand sanitizer should be applied at the entrance and exit.
- Warnings should be made to maintain a physical distance of 1.5 m between people inside.
- These areas should be continuously ventilated.

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- Possible services should be performed outdoors.
- These areas should be cleaned and disinfected every day.

Department Laboratories

- No visitor entrance should be allowed in the laboratories to maintain hygiene and social distance. Students should be admitted to the halls with 1 person per 4 m².
- Hand disinfectant should be applied at the entrance and exit.
- Masks and visors should be used in addition to the protective clothing routinely used in laboratories.
- In these areas, the appropriate working order should be determined by the relevant department in order to maintain the physical distance of 1.5 m.
- These areas should be cleaned and disinfected by the relevant personnel after each work.

Student Affairs and Other Offices

- Students and visitors should be admitted to the offices one by one.
- Hand disinfectant should be applied at the entrance and exit.
- In environments where more than one person is present at the same time, masks should be used. Visitors and students without a mask should not be admitted.
- Offices should be constantly ventilated.
- These areas should be cleaned and disinfected regularly.

Study Hall and Library

Since there is no natural ventilation opportunity in the working room, this area should not be used temporarily during the pandemic process.

Dining Hall, Cafes and Cafeterias

- Different classes should be allowed to enter different time zones in order to reduce the density.
- Hand disinfectant should be applied at the entrance and exit.
- Students should be provided to maintain a physical distance of 1.5 m while waiting in line.

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- Seating arrangement in these areas should be arranged as one full and one empty. The tables and chairs in the cafeteria should be arranged according to the cross seating arrangement.
- Seating places should be numbered and students should be ensured to sit only in the numbered place assigned to them.
- Working personnel masks and visors should be used.
- Students should wear masks during the meal. Students without a mask should not be admitted to the cafeteria.
- Meal time per person should not exceed 10 minutes.
- Water, salt, bread and spices should be served for single use in the refectory. All equipment in common use should be removed.
- The dining hall should be constantly ventilated.
- These areas should be cleaned and disinfected every day.

Canteen

- If it is opened, students should be prevented from spending time inside. Students should be allowed to go to the open section of the canteen.
- In order to reduce the density, classes should be left between classes respectively.
- Hand disinfectant should be applied at the entrance and exit.
- Students should be provided to maintain a physical distance of 1.5 m while waiting in line.
- Working personnel masks and visors should be used.
- Students should wear masks during the meal. Students without a mask should not be admitted to the canteen.
- Water, salt, bread and spices should be offered for single use in the canteen. All equipment in common use should be removed.
- The canteen should be continuously ventilated.
- These areas should be cleaned and disinfected every day.

Prayers Room

- Students and visitors should be admitted to prayers room with a maximum of three people or 1 person per 4 m² area.
- Hand disinfectant should be applied at the entrance and exit.
- Unmasked visitors and students should not be admitted.
- Commonly used equipment should not be available.
- The doors of the rooms should be kept open continuously.

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- These areas should be cleaned and disinfected regularly.

Lockers Rooms

Since there is no natural ventilation opportunity in dressing rooms, these areas should not be used temporarily during the pandemic process.

Toilets and Showers

- Toilets should be allowed as many people as the number of cabins.
- One tap should be left empty in the toilets, taking into account the social distance.
- Liquid soap and hand sanitizer should be available in toilets.

Corridors

- In order to reduce the density, classes should be introduced to the classes in order.
- Physical distance of 1.5m should be preserved in the corridors.
- Pedestrian traffic should be on the right in the corridors to prevent encounters.
- Unmasked persons should not be allowed to roam or be found.
- It should be ensured that students spend their lesson breaks outdoors as much as possible.
- These areas should be cleaned and disinfected every day.

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