1. Disease Information
   
   1.1 General disease and pathogen information: Severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2), the virus that causes the disease known as COVID-19 in humans, is an enveloped, positive sense, single-stranded RNA virus that belongs to the family Coronaviridae. Based on phylogenetic analyses, SARS-CoV-2 is currently believed to originate from an animal host (likely a bat); however, investigations are ongoing. Since its introduction to human populations, SARS-CoV-2 has been spreading predominantly human to human. At this time, evidence is lacking to support companion animals as a source of infection for SARS-CoV-2, however; mounting evidence suggests that SARS-CoV-2 may be spread from an infected person to some animal species.¹

   1.2 Clinical Signs:
      
      1.2.1 Canine: Clinical signs at this time are unknown.
      1.2.2 Felids: Clinical signs are inconclusive but may include dry cough, wheezing, difficulty breathing, sneezing, runny nose, lethargy, vomiting, or diarrhea.
      1.2.3 Other species: It is possible that other species may be affected.

2. Laboratory criteria: The decision to test any animal for the SARS-CoV-2 virus will be made collaboratively between local, state or federal public health and animal health officials², or between federal agencies³, using a One Health approach. As an OIE reportable disease in animals, confirmation of SARS-CoV-2 infection is performed at the USDA APHIS VS National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL).

   2.1 PCR: Oral, nasal and rectal/fecal swabs are recommended per OIE. Store oral and nasal swabs in separate vials of viral transport media and maintain the cold chain at 2-8°C.

   2.2 Serology: blood samples may be collected; remove from clot prior to storage. Serum may be frozen at -20°C.

   2.3 Virus characterization: genomic sequence generated either direct from diagnostic sample or from virus isolate.

¹ For more information see the OIE COVID-19 Q&A
² For more information see FAQ for State Animal and Public Health Officials on Animal Coronavirus Testing
³ Federal officials will consult on decisions concerning animals maintained in federal facilities or on federal lands
3. **Case definition and Reporting Criteria**

3.1 **Suspect case:** Animal determined to be at high risk of exposure to an infected person, AND demonstrating compatible clinical signs as determined by an animal health professional.

3.2 **Presumptive positive case:** Animal tests positive by SARS-CoV-2 real time RT-PCR.

3.3 **Confirmed positive case:** Sequence confirmation of virus either direct from sample or from virus isolate, OR demonstration of SARS-CoV-2 neutralizing antibody. All confirmatory testing will occur at NVSL.