Memorandum

DATE: September 8, 2026

TO: **Veterinarians and professionals working with animals,** including technicians, administrators, producers, and laboratorians; **veterinary and medical educational institutions,** including students and trainees; **human medical clinicians and public health practitioners,** including State Epidemiologists, State Public Health Veterinarians, and State Veterinarians; and **all parties concerned with minimizing occupational zoonotic disease transmission**

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SUBJECT: **Compendium of Zoonotic Disease Infection Prevention and Control in Veterinary Personnel, 2026**

On behalf of the National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians (NASPHV), we are pleased to provide the Compendium of Zoonotic Disease Infection Prevention and Control in Veterinary Personnel, 2026. To help promote veterinary IPC and reduce zoonotic disease transmission from occupational exposures, we recommend that you distribute this cover memorandum and the Compendium widely to veterinary professionals and those who oversee or are engaged with medical care for animals.

Zoonotic diseases are a recognized occupational hazard for veterinary personnel, and preventing disease is a key objective of both public health and veterinary medicine. Earlier editions of this Compendium have focused on veterinary standard precautions, the universal practices to prevent zoonotic disease transmission that are meant to be used by all veterinary and animal-care professionals, regardless of an animal's clinical history or presentation. This edition of the compendium has a new name that reflects advances in the discipline of infection prevention and control (IPC). By using the

hierarchy of controls, the Compendium presents strategies, including standard and transmission-based precautions, to minimize zoonotic disease transmission.

See below for a summary of key Compendium updates.

- While prior Compendia have defined transmission-based precautions and given an overview of how to use them, this edition takes this guidance one step further. Appendix 1 describes a list of selected zoonotic diseases of importance in the United States, and now includes recommended transmission-based precautions for each of these zoonotic diseases.
- An important feature of standard precautions is a point-of-care risk assessment. This helps veterinary professionals determine if any transmission-based or additional precautions are needed. This edition of the compendium offers a more in-depth explanation of how to do this point-of-care risk assessment including updated text as well as a new figure (Figure 3) illustrating this iterative process.
- This edition of the Compendium offers an updated model IPC plan that now includes a tiered checklist. In recognition that veterinary medicine is practiced in a diverse range of settings, the checklist attempts to meet practioners where they are.
    - The checklist and plan are organized by hand hygiene, personal protective equipment, environmental infection control, and policies and practices.
    - The checklist covers the key components of veterinary IPC and ascribes a star value to each one: one-star components are essential items foundational to IPC and should be implemented in every type of veterinary setting; two-star components are important and can strengthen the practice of IPC; three-star components reflect ideal IPC practices. The checklist can then be completed by designated staff members at set timepoints to regularly evaluate progress toward ideal IPC practices or to audit ongoing IPC practices.
    - The model IPC plan offers text that is customizable for any veterinary practice.

Throughout the Compendium, IPC recommendations are supported by veterinary-specific evidence when available. If unavailable, however, general infection

prevention guidance or evidence from human healthcare settings is offered. Since the medical care of animals and people can be quite different, having more high-quality information specific to veterinary information will be critical to inform future Compendium revisions.

This Compendium is periodically updated and we encourage your comments or suggestions for future revisions. The Compendium Committee relies on all of you to assist in future data collection, reporting, and analysis on veterinary IPC implementation. Thank you for your support and collaboration.