



## Washington State Veterinary Medical Association

Veterinarians should be prepared for the possibility that COVID-19 social distancing could last for up to 8 weeks. The [WSVMA](#) and the [AVMA](#) have set up extensive resource pages for you to access important links, resources and information. In addition, here is a list of recommendations veterinary practices can follow as we navigate through this difficult time.

1. Cancel non-essential services for the time being.
2. Limit office staff to those essential for treating emergent cases.
3. Assign non-essential staff to tasks that don't involve public contact.
4. Ask employees and clients to adhere to recommended handwashing and other infection control practices.
5. Conduct frequent cleanings of all surfaces including keyboards, door knobs, phones, etc.
6. Ensure that your sick leave policies are flexible and consistent with public health guidance and Washington [law](#).
7. Share your plan with employees and explain what human resources policies, workplace and leave flexibilities, and pay and benefits will be available to them.
8. If you or a member of your team has confirmed or suspected corona virus disease, follow these [instructions](#).
9. If your client is sick with COVID-19, or suspect they are ill, they should stay home until they are well. If they have a non-urgent appointment (i.e. wellness examination, routine vaccination, dental cleaning) it is best to reschedule the appointment until their physician or public health official declares they no longer present a risk of transmitting the virus.
10. For clients who are at a higher risk of becoming infected with COVID-19 who are or concerned about getting the virus from contact with others, a practice may consider a policy of meeting the client in the clinic's parking lot to bring their animal into the practice for examination and then discuss any diagnosis and/or treatment plan by telephone with the client.
11. If a client can't travel and needs a refill for their pet, veterinarians should keep in mind [WAC 246-933-200 \(1.b.\) VCPR](#) and [WAC 246-933-020](#) rendering services to society, and use your best medical judgements on a case by case basis. Make sure to document requests and decisions thoroughly.
12. Conserve PPE supplies in the event there's a government order to prioritize human patients. See information on the WSVMA website on re-using masks.
13. If you decide to close your office, make sure to notify clients and leave emergency numbers on your voicemail, website, and at the entrance.
14. Even though information is unclear about COVID-19 in animals, those ill with the virus should limit contact with pets.

The WSVMA is also awaiting the following guidance from the Veterinary Board of Governors.

1. Can the VCPR can be established remotely during the disease outbreak? Currently, regulations stipulate that VCPR establishment must be established solely through a physical exam.
2. Can supervision of the healthcare team be conducted electronically by veterinarians who must remain at home?
3. What allowances will be made for CE requirements for veterinarians and veterinary technicians under the current moratorium on face to face meetings?



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**Additional News**

[WSU Veterinary College modifies operations for COVID-19 pandemic](#)

For a complete list of WA state and local resources, visit the WSVMA [COVID-19 Resource page](#).

Access a complete list of COVID-19 Resources [here](#).