



COVID-19 Updates / March 24, 2020

Gov. Inslee's Stay at Home order and a letter for employees of essential businesses to carry with them

The Governor issued the order last evening at 5:30pm. Download a copy of it [here](#).

There has been no official direction from the Governor's office regarding employees traveling between home and essential businesses. But the WSVMA recommends all employees carry a letter with them in the event they're asked to show proof for being on the roads.

Here's a template letter that veterinary hospitals can [download](#) and edit for their use. In the absence of a letter, employees should at least carry business cards or something that identifies them as employees of the practice.

National Survey to assess PPE Supply in the Veterinary Community

Not to inundate you with surveys, but we are working with Veterinary Medical Association Executives (VMAE) to determine the supply of personal protective equipment (PPE) in the veterinary community.

The COVID-19 pandemic is causing supply chain issues as the stress on human healthcare strains supplies. Our goal is to determine how long veterinary hospitals can practice under current conditions based on the PPE supplies on hand in hospitals. We also wish to inform how veterinary medical associations advocate for veterinary medicine in governmental discussions about PPE distribution.

Please take a moment to complete this survey. Limit your response to one per practice. If you have received this survey multiple times or other members of your practice have received it, make sure your practice only submits one response so our data are not skewed. Your response is anonymous; only aggregate data will be used.

Time is of the essence. **The survey closes at midnight on Wednesday, March 25** - please respond promptly! Thank you for your participation.

Take the survey [here](#).

For complete information on the use and conservation of PPE from AVMA click [here](#).

Supply shortages and how to conserve

We are communicating with a number of partners looking into shortages, including FDA, other veterinary associations, various practice groups, and distributors. We have isolated reports, based on discussion posts and mention of supplies in-stock, that the following items may be in short supply: Surgical masks, gloves, gowns, hand sanitizers, and surface sanitizing solutions. Some vendors have reported isopropyl alcohol and surgical drapes as being out of stock, but at last report other vendors still had those available (this may, of course, change quickly). Confirmation of specific shortages is challenging because the production and delivery networks for these are distributed, rather than being centralized. We have been working with the FDA as the best central source of information on shortages of both drugs and medical products and reporting information back to them as we receive it. We've sent another request for an update out to some of our partners this morning.

- FDA maintains a drug shortage database (active always, not just in the case of COVID-19) that can be accessed here: www.fda.gov/drugs/drug-safety-and-availability/...
- Alcohol-containing products, including hand sanitizers, have been reported to be in short supply and FDA has issued guidance accordingly: www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/...
- FDA has indicated it anticipates a shortage of gloves and has issued guidance accordingly: www.fda.gov/medical-devices/...
- Similar shortages are anticipated for surgical masks and gowns and FDA has also issued guidance for those: www.fda.gov/medical-devices/...
- CDC has also issued guidance for multiple types of PPE: www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/ppe-strategy/...
- AVMA has also drafted guidance for conservation, which is available here: www.avma.org/resources-tools/animal-health-and-welfare/...

Source: AVMA

Use of telemedicine and the VCPR: Federal regulatory update

FDA has issued [guidance](#), for immediate implementation, that temporarily suspends the enforcement of certain aspects of the federal veterinarian-client-patient-relationship (VCPR) requirements. Those federal requirements apply to extralabel drug use, and the issuing of veterinary feed directives (VFD). The guidance acknowledges individual state VCPR requirements that may continue to exist, acknowledges current federal VCPR requirements related to in-person examinations or premises visits, and indicates suspension of

requirements outlined in guidance are temporary measures during the COVID-19 outbreak.

Source: AVMA

Working together during the COVID-19 crisis

We understand that we're facing unprecedented change and impact to our businesses. We share your concerns about paying and laying off employees, remaining viable, open businesses. Our best chances of success and weathering this storm is going to come from helping each other. Think about partnering with other practices close to you that you can rely on to help if you or many of your staff become ill and there's no one to see patients for multiple days. Work out an agreement between each other now so you're prepared if that happens and make the commitment that if you see another's client, that you'll send them back when they're open again. Let the client know that, too. It takes trust, but now is the time to work together so we can all get back to normal business when this crisis abates.

Covid-19 Quote of the Day

“Adopt a role model mindset. Yes, this is a historic crisis. But that means it is also a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for you to be a role model, to optimize your health, to demonstrate a positive attitude, to show compassion, to set the emotional tone for your circle of influence, to remain calm and conscientious, to lead, to exemplify the values and habits and service and humanity you believe in.”

Brendon Burchard, top motivation and marketing trainer

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