

NYSVMS Covid 19 Member Resources

Safer, Stronger Together

New York State Veterinary Medical Society

Webinar recording available

Loans, Finance, Paid Leave, Unemployment and more:

Recording from webinar: 4/3/2020



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STAY SAFE

Dr. Scott Weese has drawn attention to a new [Canadian guideline](#) in his blog. Among other things it goes into detail about the risks of transmission from animal patient to veterinarian, and gives some balanced advice on protection based on what is currently known.

There may be shifts coming in recommendations around the use of masks. New York City Department of Health has put out an advisory notice for New York City Vets covering safety issues, and more may be in the works at the State level, so keep checking in at vets.nysvms.org/covid/safe

Are veterinarians getting sick?

There are all sorts of complications with collecting medical information.

However, If you are willing to share anecdotal information you can let people know what is happening around you on our [member discussion board](#).

For example you could say "We have been seeing emergency patients in NYC and none of our 20 staff have tested positive yet" I think that other members would really like to hear that. If the reverse is true, your experience could be the inspiration for others to implement tighter standards.

You can always [email stories to me](#) too, but **nothing that could possibly identify any individual as sick**, unless they want to tell their story themselves.

Unemployment payments even for people quitting

One of the most unexpected things we learned from last night's webinar is that the new Covid-19 related unemployment benefits are very broadly applicable. The below is from the [NY department of labor](#)

QUESTION: Who is eligible for PUA? (Pandemic Unemployment Assistance)

ANSWER: Individuals are eligible for PUA if they do not qualify for regular UI benefits (including self-employed workers and independent contractors) and cannot work because they

- Are diagnosed COVID-19 or have COVID-19 symptoms and are seeking diagnosis;
- Have a member of the household who is diagnosed with COVID-19;
- Are providing care for a family or household member diagnosed with COVID-19;
- Are the primary caregiver for a child whose school or care facility closed, due to COVID-19;
- Are unable to reach their place of employment due to an imposed quarantine, or because advised by medical provider to self-quarantine, due to COVID-19

- Were scheduled to start new employment and cannot reach the workplace as direct result of COVID-19;
 - Became the major breadwinner because the head of household died from COVID-19;
 - Quit their job as a direct result of COVID-19;
 - Had their place of employment closed as a direct result of COVID-19;
- or
- Meet any additional criteria specified by U.S. Secretary of Labor

Individuals are not eligible for PUA if they can telework or are receiving paid sick leave or other paid leave benefits (regardless of meeting a category listed above)

Press coverage of NY veterinarians response to need for ventilators and PPE .

The tremendous response of veterinarians to request for ventilators and PPE has been covered extensively in the press. NYSVMS was included in both an [article in JAVMA](#) and an [article in the Guardian](#) and has issued a [press-release](#) drawing attention to the level of support that veterinarians have provided to hospitals caring for those with Covid-19.

Some of our members are getting press-coverage about the steps they are taking to keep their clients safe. Dr. Pamela Reppert is featured in a delightful story in the [Times Union](#).

