



COVID-19 Update from IVMA

March 23, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

As you are likely aware, the Indiana Veterinary Medical Association has been working diligently to provide its members with up-to-date information on topics affecting your practice. We have also been keeping in contact with Indiana's governmental leaders to ensure that, in the event a stay-at-home order was issued, our members, and the State's animals, were protected.

Today Governor Holcomb issued Executive Order 20-08 - Directive for Hoosiers to Stay at Home. That Executive Order is set to take effect on March 24, 2020, at 11:59 p.m. through April 6, 2020, at 11:59 p.m. Under that Order, certain services, including Healthcare and Public Health Operations, **which include "veterinary care and all healthcare services provided to animals," are deemed "Essential Activities" and are encouraged to remain open.** Additionally, while individual

travel is generally restricted, travel to and from those Essential Activities is permitted. As a result, veterinary services are permitted to continue to be provided either in office or on-site.

Individuals are permitted, according to the Order, to seek treatment and care for their pets as needed.

Best practices during this time may include the following:

1. Practice social distancing, as required by the Executive Order. This includes 6' distances and having hand sanitizer and sanitizing products readily available for employees and customers.
2. Prioritize appointments to encourage clients to adhere to the stay at home directive and conserve supplies and PPE. Postpone routine/elective surgeries and appointments. Consider the viability of offering veterinary telemedicine to clients with whom you have a current VCPR.
3. Communicate new protocols to clients. This can be done on your social media pages and/or client emails.
4. Consider shifting hours of operation and streamlining your staff resources.
5. Provide curbside care for your clients. This can include having clients call the clinic when they arrive, and the staff comes out to pick up the patient. This eliminates clients in your practice. It protects you, your staff and your clients.
6. While IVMA is unaware of a specific requirement to have work documentation when you or your staff are traveling to and from work, you might consider providing a letter for each of your staff on your letterhead as a precaution.
7. Communicate and check in on your staff regularly - veterinary medicine can work through and solve these challenges together!

AVMA provides this guiding document to assist with minimizing COVID-19 exposure as it relates to elective cases. [Click here](#).

IVMA is working diligently to provide members updates as they come available. Please keep an eye out, as updates and additional information for members on topics affecting our profession will be forthcoming.

Feel free to contact me at aaronsmiley@me.com or Lisa in the IVMA offices (lisa@invma.org) if we can assist in any way.

Warm Regards,

Dr. Aaron Smiley
IVMA President



Stay Connected



IVMA, 1202 East 38th Street, Discovery Hall Suite 200, Indianapolis, IN 46205

[SafeUnsubscribe™ lisa@invma.org](#)

[Forward this email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by [lisa@invma.org](#) in collaboration with



Try email marketing for free today!