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New York State Veterinary Medical Society

Preserving PPE

Dear Dr. xxxx

As the Covid19 crisis deepens, veterinarians are being called to help with PPE shortages across both veterinary and human medicine.

I know many of you are asking about how the government "stay home" orders influence your animal hospital. But in addition to that, as you decide which animals need to be admitted today, please also take into account your inventory of PPE and how much you can set aside to save human lives.

I am the Chair of a Task Force set up by VMAE (Veterinary Medical Association Executives) at the request of AVMA to coordinate our State Association's responses to the shortages in personal protective equipment.

One of the biggest challenges facing medical centers that treat people who have Covid19 is the supply of the personal protective equipment that medical staff need to stay healthy enough to work. In the next few days there is going to be a massive surge in hospitalizations, and it would be terrible if medical staff are not available because they are also sick.

You may have already seen our requests for any spare PPE inventory you can provide. Similar requests are going to both veterinary equipment manufacturers and distributors.

Any patient you handle is a potential fomite and you may only have a few days supply of PPE equipment to keep your own staff safe, so it is important you fully understand the overall supply situation.

At this stage groups like the Task Force I chair are in the process of assessing the PPE supply chain capacity. We do not yet have good information on inventory levels or about how fresh stocks will be distributed, but we know that medical facilities treating Covid19 will be prioritized and will have a huge need. Part of our Task Force's work will be to gather the data so that scarce PPE resources can be allocated efficiently to both human and animal health, and we can advise our members on what to expect in the coming weeks.

If you have ventilators that could be used for humans, please follow the lead of other major animal hospitals that have already lent them to save the lives of people with Covid19. If your hospital is closed, then you are in a great position to help re-allocate your supplies.

Thank you all for helping animals who need you today. You are to be commended and admired for taking risks with your own health in your dedication to animal health.

Stay safe (we have [info on that on our website](#))

Tim

Tim Atkinson
Executive Director
New York State Veterinary Medical Society

If you have any PPE or ventilators

From: David Smith, DVM, Director, Division of Animal Industry
New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets

If veterinary hospitals have supplies or other support they want to offer to the COVID19 response, please refer any offers for assistance to: covid19assistance@exec.ny.gov

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