



## KENTUCKY BOARD OF VETERINARY EXAMINERS

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### MEMO

**TO:** Licensees and Certificate Holders of the Board  
**FROM:** Chairman Steven Wills  
**DATE:** March 20, 2020  
**RE:** SARS-CoV-2 / COVID-19 Response Efforts

Dear Colleagues:

The Board is working diligently to alert you to the significant issues surrounding the pandemic of [SARS-CoV-2 \(novel coronavirus\) and COVID-19 \(disease\)](#). As a result, the Board has recommended some of the best practices to put in place going forward in an effort to limit inter-personal exposure to yourself, your staff, and your clients. To date, these are only recommendations – however, these recommendations are based on sound scientific principles to limit exposure during this serious threat to our community.

Kentucky Governor Andy Beshear is making [daily announcements](#) in the effort to combat this threat. Just yesterday, he announced an [Executive Order banning all gatherings -- statewide](#). The Board implores you to rethink how you are conducting business, and asks you to consider how a coronavirus exposure that occurs in your office or place of business could bring detrimental consequences. For instance,

- Would the Health Department close your business while you and your staff undergo self-quarantine?
- Could the virus's exposure to an elderly client or one with pre-existing medical condition lead to serious medical complications or even death?
  - Note that a [Nov 2011 study conducted by the Department of Health and Human Services](#) determined that 50 to 129 million (19 to 50 percent of) non-elderly Americans have some type of pre-existing health condition, and as much as 86 percent of older American do as well.
- Is there a potential liability issue if you are conducting business in the usual manner, without making any efforts to rethink your procedures in the face of this new threat?

Of course, no one can anticipate each and every contingency that could befall you and or your business. However, we are trying to provide tools to practice in a safe manner that is consistent with what is currently being employed in the medical community at-large.

There is no way to predict shortages of surgical supplies, but we must assume that such shortages are possible – and, if we base an analysis off [reporting from the World Health Organization](#), very probable. Currently that supply list includes gloves, medical masks, respirators, goggles, face shields, gowns, and aprons. **The Board continues to recommend the suspension of non-essential surgeries so necessary surgical procedures can continue to be performed at the standards of practice today.**

Finally, a comment on elective procedures as there have been many questions regarding this issue. Now is not time to have the philosophical discussion on the elective nature of spays and neuters. The larger concern is whether or not the veterinary community will be able to replenish existing stock in order to continue providing the necessary surgical procedures in everyday practice.

All of us have to make decisions on a daily basis in the best interest of those we serve, to this end the Board will continue to provide you with the tools to navigate these uncertain times. Thank you for your professionalism and conscientious service to the public.



## Shane, Michelle (AGR)

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**From:** Shane, Michelle (AGR)  
**Sent:** Friday, March 20, 2020 2:33 PM  
**Subject:** Kentucky BVE - Special Memo from the Chairman of the Board  
**Attachments:** KBVE\_Memo\_2020-03-20\_COVID-19.pdf  
  
**Importance:** High

Please see the attached Memo from the Chairman of the Kentucky Board of Veterinary Examiners (KBVE).

You are receiving this message as an active or pending licensee or certificate holder of the Board.

*Michelle*

Michelle M. Shane

Executive Director

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