

## Shane, Michelle (AGR)

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**From:** Shane, Michelle (AGR)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 6, 2020 9:12 AM  
**Subject:** Kentucky BVE - May 6 - update on COVID-19 response

**Importance:** High

You are receiving this message as current licensee or certificate holder of the Kentucky Board of Veterinary Examiners, or as a pending applicant. To learn more about the COVID-19 response in the Kentucky Veterinary Community, please visit the Board's website at [www.kybve.com/Kentucky-Veterinary-Covid-19-updates.html](http://www.kybve.com/Kentucky-Veterinary-Covid-19-updates.html).

The Board is providing the following updated information:

- **The [Order released on April 21](#) does not limit services to “essential” or “emergency”.** Licensees may proceed with veterinary services of any kind as long as they abide by the Order delineated in Item 1 (protection of public health), Item 2 (social distancing), and Item 3 (conserving consumable PPE). If an equine provider, then also Item 4. If you are making your best effort to follow the Governor's Orders and protect public health, maintain social distancing, and conserve consumable PPE in short supply, then you may proceed with business while taking necessary precautions to meet the Order.
- The Governor announced this week that **pet grooming and boarding are tentatively scheduled to reopen on May 11.**
- Gov. Beshear also Ordered that **animal care openings must comply with all of the following:**
  - [Minimum Requirements for All Businesses](#)
  - [10 General Rules for Re-opening](#) graphic
  - [Requirements for Pet Care, Grooming and Boarding](#)
- In Gov. Beshear's [#HealthyatWork protocol](#), **commons areas are still closed, and face-to face meetings are still restricted.**
- **Be sure to communicate frequently and clearly to your clients why this Order is in place.** Veterinarians have an obligation to uphold their oath to protect public health.
- **Employees who are interacting with the public during curbside exchange should be in appropriate PPE: reusable masks and protective gloves, etc.** Communicate clearly with clients in advance of any interaction to place their animals in the back of the vehicle where staff can easily access the animal without coming into contact with the clients. You should also encourage your clients to wear masks, especially when interacting with staff.
- **The standards of practice must still be met;** you still need to use PPE for surgeries. Numerous clinics and hospitals have reported employing reusable PPE, including caps, gowns, and masks.
- The Kentucky Office of Homeland Security initially requested that sterile gloves be conserved, however both the Board and KVMA have received reports that sterile gloves are not in short supply. **As the Order to conserve consumable PPE is due to supply shortages, and the supply of sterile / surgical gloves is reported as stable, licensees are OK to use these items now.**

Veterinarian offices are fortunate to remain operational during this pandemic crisis when so many other businesses have been shuttered for nearly two months. Even though the workflow is different, veterinary medicine has not changed. We need to adapt in response to the global pandemic and work together to create novel solutions. And we must keep up frequent communications, both with clients and colleagues, as this crisis evolves.

Please let me know if you have additional questions. Stay safe out there!

*Michelle*

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