



KENTUCKY BOARD OF VETERINARY EXAMINERS

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MEMORANDUM AND ORDER

TO: Licensees and Certificate Holders
FROM: Kentucky Board of Veterinary Examiners
DATE: June 1, 2020
RE: Board COVID-19 Order Update

I. Introduction.

On April 21, the Kentucky Board of Veterinary Examiners (KBVE) issued a [Memorandum and Order](#) counter signed by the Governor's Office in accordance with [Executive Order 2020-243](#) which imposed restrictions on the practice of veterinary medicine as part of the response effort to the SARS-CoV-2 / COVID-19 pandemic. The Memorandum and Order issued today, June 1, provides an update to that Order, easing some of those restrictions.

Licensees should understand that this easing is not a complete return to normal business operations. Should there be another spike in disease cases in the Commonwealth, the Board will reimpose restrictions in accordance with Governor Andy Beshear's mandates in order to protect public health.

II. June 1 Update to Order and Guidance.

To summarize and ensure that all licensees are following the same guidance, the following numerical list provides updates to the Order issued on April 21.

- 1) **Every licensee's priority during the COVID-19 State of Emergency should be the protection of public health.** This Order remains in place.
 - a) Corporate owned practices, even if owned by an entity headquartered out of state, must still comply with the Governor's Executive Orders.
 - b) Licensees employed by a corporate entity are ultimately accountable for ensuring the Governor's EO's and the Board's recommendations are followed as outlined. Failure to do so may result in Board discipline.
- 2) **Ensure that your practice follows the Governor's Executive Orders and Directives to maintain social distancing.** This Order remains in place with the following updates.

June 1, 2020

- a) **Veterinary practices now have the option to allow clients into the building as long as protocols have been developed to accommodate all of the following considerations, and staff have been fully educated and trained to execute those protocols:**
- i. **Required posted signage on building entrances.**
 1. [#HealthyatWork](#) ([Spanish](#), if needed)
 2. [Do Not Enter if Sick](#) ([Spanish](#), if needed)
 - ii. **Checking temperatures of clients before allowing entrance.**
 1. Temperature readings above 100.4°F should be denied entrance.
 2. Recording temperatures is not required.
 - iii. **Requiring clients to wear masks while in the building.**
 1. Notify clients of this requirement (should they wish to enter the building) in advance of their appointment.
 2. Have disposable masks available for client usage in the event they do not have one.
 - iv. **Limiting client entrance to only one individual per family.**
 1. For animal euthanasias, there is an exception of two (2) clients per patient.
 - v. **Providing a handwashing or hand sanitizer station** near building entrance and exit for client use.
 - vi. Wherever possible, **employing the use of a dedicated entrance and a dedicated exit.**
 - vii. **Payments should be handled from the exam room or over the phone**, not in the reception area or a common counter.
 - viii. **Disinfection of all surfaces** touched by clients and patients, as well as exam rooms **between each use** following [CDC recommended cleaning protocols](#) using [EPA-approved disinfectants](#) or CDC-approved alternatives.
 - ix. **Keeping the commons / waiting areas closed** – i.e., clients with patients should still be waiting in their vehicles until called into the building, and clients picking up prescriptions or supplies only should still be using curbside service.
 - x. **Allowing more time between appointments** for appropriate social distancing space, waiting times in vehicles (especially as temperatures increase outside), as well as time for disinfection of surfaces between clients. **This may mean increasing appointment times to 45-60 minutes per client.**
 - xi. **Veterinarians seeing exotic pets or ferrets should take extra precautions**, including increased screening questions for clients and deeper disinfection between visits.
- b) **Scheduling must accommodate for space between clients, even in the parking lot.**
- c) **Curbside exchanges are now optional, but still highly encouraged.**

June 1, 2020

- d) **Rabies clinics occurring in public locations** (i.e., not at a clinic or practice with COVID-19 protocols in place) **shall be allowable if a plan is submitted to the Board and approval of the plan is issued in advance.** KBVE will release a form on its website for development of a plan, including submission instructions for seeking approval.
 - e) **Governor Beshear is now allowing businesses such as pet grooming and boarding to open if they follow [#HealthyatWork Requirements for Pet Care, Grooming and Boarding Businesses](#).**
- 3) **Conserve consumable PPE.** This Order remains in place.
- a) The Kentucky Office of Homeland Security reports that PPE shortages include N95 respirators and surgical masks, gowns, sterile cotton swabs, and any other supplies identified by the Governor's office.
 - b) With regard to services and procedures that do not use any of the listed consumable PPE, there is no limitation on veterinary medicine except as delineated in Item 1 (protection of public health) and Item 2 (social distancing), above.
- 4) **Notes to equine providers.** This Order remains in place with the addition of one person to assist with radiographs. If abiding by the Order delineated in Item 1 (protection of public health), Item 2 (social distancing), and Item 3 (conserving consumable PPE) above,
- a) Surgery for sale yearlings is permissible but should be done with the time frame toward the particular sale the individual will be entered so as not to increase surgery workloads to the point of increasing the likelihood of staff exposure risks.
 - b) Radiographing of sales yearlings is a time sensitive process, and is allowed if the following conditions are met to aid in compliance with social distancing requirements:
 - i. One designee holds all yearlings to be radiographed;
 - ii. One designee holds the plate for all yearlings to be radiographed;
 - iii. The veterinarian clinician takes all the radiographs;
 - iv. One designee to assist with radiographs or the animal; and
 - v. All individuals wear masks during the process.
 - vi. Each individual designee should remain constant for the entire process at each location.
 - vii. Without exception, no more than four (4) individuals should be involved in the process at any time.
- 5) **The Board continues to encourage the use of telehealth where possible, within the bounds of a current, valid VCPR.** The Board considers a VCPR to be current if the patient has been seen within the last 12 months. For a definition of a VCPR in Kentucky, see [KRS 321.185](#).

June 1, 2020

- 6) To the extent that any statute within KRS Chapter 321, or any administrative regulation promulgated by the Board, is inconsistent or could be construed as inconsistent with this Order, or with any order issued under the authority of the Governor's Emergency Declaration, such statute or regulation is hereby SUSPENDED pursuant to [Executive Order 2020-243](#) (issued March 18, 2020), Sections 3 and 4.

As the pandemic is not yet over, all businesses must still comply with the Governor's Minimum Requirements for All Businesses. If you have not yet read these, visit the Governor's [#HealthyatWork minimum requirements](#) page immediately to review the mandates and ensure you and your practice are in compliance. Additionally, we must continue to communicate these responsibilities to our clients on a regular basis so they stay informed on practice limitations.

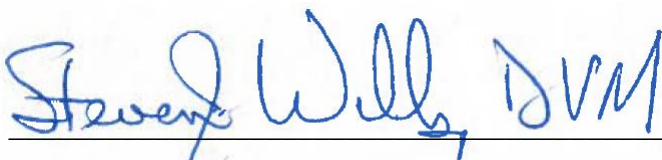
This temporary Board Order shall remain in effect for the duration of the State of Emergency that Governor Beshear declared on March 6, 2020. Licensees should be prepared for state and local public health orders to be extended, amended, or changed as needed to protect public health. This means we may move between the different phases of business operations during this pandemic.

Individuals wishing to file a complaint against licensees not following Board Orders should use the KBVE Grievance Form located online at www.kybve.com/grievances.html. A Board licensee complainant shall have his or her personally identifying information kept anonymous from a respondent in order to offer a shield against retaliation.

A note on continuing education (CE) for the current renewal cycle ending on September 30, 2020, for veterinarians and veterinary technicians: **CE requirements shall not be delayed or extended beyond what is currently allowable in the statutory grace period (KRS 321.211)**. Current Kentucky regulations allow for earning all required CE credits online provided that the course is Board approved. For more information on Kentucky CE requirements and approved courses, please visit the Board's website at www.kybve.com/continuing-education.htm.

For current information on the COVID-19 response efforts related to the veterinary community, please continue to check the Board's website at www.kybve.com/Kentucky-Veterinary-Covid-19-updates.html.

If you have any questions about this Board Order, contact the Board's office at Vet@ky.gov or call 502-782-0273.



Steven J. Wills, DVM

Chairman, Kentucky Board of Veterinary Examiners

Date: June 1, 2020

Shane, Michelle (AGR)

From: Shane, Michelle (AGR)
Sent: Monday, June 1, 2020 8:10 AM
Subject: Kentucky BVE - June 1 - Memorandum and updated Order
Attachments: KBVE_COVID-19_2020-06-01_Memo and Order update.pdf

Importance: High

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

Please see the attached Memorandum and updated Order for licensees of the Kentucky Board of Veterinary Examiners.

Michelle

Michelle M. Shane

Executive Director

Kentucky Board of Veterinary Examiners

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