



## KENTUCKY BOARD OF VETERINARY EXAMINERS

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## MEMO

**TO:** Licensees and Certificate Holders of the Kentucky Board of Veterinary Examiners (KBVE)  
**FROM:** KBVE Board Members  
**DATE:** February 24, 2021  
**RE:** **COVID-19 Update**

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As we approach one year of pandemic restrictions, thank you for your continued adherence to COVID-19 protocols. Individuals who are following these protocols are making a positive impact in our communities to reduce the spread of the virus by reducing points of exposure.

We understand how difficult these changes have been on your practices, and are aware of the extra-long hours being worked by everyone in an effort to continue providing clients with the same levels of service. We also understand that not all clients have been receptive to efforts to protect public health, and appreciate your patience and diligence as we continue to navigate through this experience together.

### Board Orders

The last Board Order – issued [June 1, 2020](#) -- is still in effect, as there have been no changes in the current State of Emergency declared by Governor Andy Beshear. The June 1 Order and all past orders and announcements can be viewed online at [www.kybve.com/Kentucky-Veterinary-Covid-19-updates.html](http://www.kybve.com/Kentucky-Veterinary-Covid-19-updates.html).

In summary:

- The **protection of public health** should be every licensee's priority during the COVID-19 State of Emergency.
- Governor Beshear's **Minimum Requirements for All Business are still mandatory**. Please visit <https://govstatus.egov.com/ky-healthy-at-work> for the latest information, requirements, and signage.
- Clinics and hospitals **may allow client entry into a facility if the protocols outlined in the June 1 Order are followed** (See Item 2 (a) – (e)). If these protocols are not being followed, clients should not be in the facility.
- **Universal mask wearing is still mandatory**, whether or not clients / the public are in the facility.
- **Telemedicine still requires a valid and current VCPR** (i.e., an in-person physical exam within the last 12-months).
- **Equine providers should refer to the June 1 Order for additional restrictions related to the sale of yearlings.**

- **Health and Rabies Clinics still require application and advance approval by the Board.** The form to request approval for these public events is at [www.kybve.com/forms.html](http://www.kybve.com/forms.html) under the “Requests and Other Forms” drop-down.

## Vaccines update

- **Obtaining a Vaccine**

In Kentucky, **veterinarians are grouped with agriculture and other essential workers in the Phase 1C.** For the latest on vaccine news, visit <https://govstatus.egov.com/ky-covid-vaccine>. Here you can find out where to sign-up for vaccines. Distribution varies by county, so the vaccine may be available to those grouped in 1C at different times.

As of the date of this Memo, according to the Team Kentucky vaccine website, only about 11% of the Commonwealth’s population has received the COVID-19 vaccine. Given that the rates for herd immunity are still unknown for this specific virus, and other factors related to the State of Emergency, the KBVE does not anticipate a lifting of restrictions in the near future. The Board encourages all licensees and certificate holders to register for a vaccine and respond to offered appointments as they become available.

- **Administration of Vaccines**

The federal government is investigating the need for and possible logistics of employing veterinarians to administer COVID vaccines. However, according to the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services (CHFS), the lead agency for vaccine coordination in the Commonwealth, there are no current plans to employ veterinarians in vaccine administration in Kentucky at this time. The number of available doses is still far below the need for additional medical staff to administer vaccines.

As always, the Board welcomes feedback from licensees, certificate holders, and the public. If you have questions or comments, please reach out to [Vet@ky.gov](mailto:Vet@ky.gov) or attend an upcoming KBVE meeting. The Board’s meeting schedule is on the website at [www.kybve.com/board-meetings.html](http://www.kybve.com/board-meetings.html).

Stay safe and well out there!

## Shane, Michelle (AGR)

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**From:** Shane, Michelle (AGR) on behalf of AGR-KBVE (AGR)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 24, 2021 11:00 AM  
**Subject:** KBVE - COVID-19 Update -- General Update and Vaccine Information  
**Attachments:** KBVE\_COVID-19\_2021-02-24\_MEMO-general update.pdf

**Importance:** High

**\*\*CAUTION\*\* PDF attachments may contain links to malicious sites. Please contact the COT Service Desk [ServiceCorrespondence@ky.gov](mailto:ServiceCorrespondence@ky.gov) for any assistance.**

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](http://www.kybve.com/Kentucky-Veterinary-Covid-19-updates.html).

Please see the attached Memo from the Kentucky Board of Veterinary Examiners. Questions may be sent to [Vet@ky.gov](mailto:Vet@ky.gov).

*Michelle*

Michelle M. Shane

Executive Director

Kentucky Board of Veterinary Examiners

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Please note that I am currently telecommuting multiple days each week; there may a delay in response time.