



KENTUCKY BOARD OF VETERINARY EXAMINERS

107 Corporate Drive, Second Floor, Frankfort, KY 40601

Office: 502-782-0273 • Fax: 502-695-5887

kybve.com • vet@ky.gov

MEMORANDUM AND ORDER

TO: Licensees and Certificate Holders
FROM: Kentucky Board of Veterinary Examiners
DATE: March 31, 2021
RE: **Board COVID-19 Order Update**

I. Introduction.

The Kentucky Board of Veterinary Examiners (KBVE) last issued an update to SARS-CoV-2 / COVID-19 pandemic restrictions on [June 1, 2020](#). At that time, some restrictions were rolled back to give practitioners the option of allowing clients to enter the building so long as the Governor's orders were followed and cleaning protocols were in place to help reduce virus transmission. The Memorandum and Order issued today, March 31, 2021, provides an update to that Order.

Licensees should understand that this update is not meant to signal a complete return to normal business operations. Should there be another spike in disease cases in the Commonwealth, the Board could find it necessary to implement new restrictions.

II. March 31, 2021 Update to Order and Guidance.

To summarize and ensure that all licensees are following the same guidance, the following list provides updates to previous Board Orders.

- 1) **Every licensee's priority during the COVID-19 State of Emergency should be the protection of public health.**
 - a) Corporate-owned practices, even if owned by an entity headquartered out of state, must still comply with the Kentucky Governor's Executive Orders for operations in Kentucky.
 - b) Licensees employed by a corporate entity are ultimately accountable for ensuring the Governor's EOs and the Board's recommendations are followed as outlined.

- 2) **Ensure that your practice follows the Governor’s Executive Orders and Directives in the Kentucky Healthy at Work reopening plans.** Be certain to visit <https://govstatus.egov.com/ky-healthy-at-work> for the latest information and guidance from the Kentucky Governor.
- a) **As of the date of this Memo, the following minimum requirements must be met:**
- i. Maintain Social Distancing (six (6) feet or more)
 - ii. Require face coverings for everyone
 - iii. Provide Adequate Hand Sanitizer and Encourage Hand Washing
 - iv. Ensure Proper Sanitation
 - v. Conduct Daily Temperature/Health checks
- b) **Veterinary practices have the option to allow clients into the building as long as the minimum requirements are met and staff have been instructed to execute the Governor’s protocols. KBVE offers the following additional guidance to aid practitioners in their operations:**
- i. **Required posted signage on building entrances.** Visit the #TeamKentucky [Health at Work](#) website for resources including required signage such as “Masks Required” and “Do Not Enter if Sick”.
 - ii. **Checking temperatures of clients before allowing entrance to the practice.**
 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.**
 3. Notify clients of this requirement in advance of their appointment.
 4. Have disposable masks available for client usage in the event they do not have one.
 - iv. **Providing a handwashing or hand sanitizer station** near building entrance and exit for client use.
 - v. **Regularly disinfecting surfaces** touched by clients and patients, as well as exam rooms, following [CDC recommended cleaning protocols](#) using [EPA-approved List N disinfectants](#) or CDC-approved alternatives.
 - vi. **Minimizing congregation in commons / waiting areas** – i.e., clients with patients should wait in their vehicles until called into the building.
 - vii. **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.
 - viii. **Veterinarians seeing exotic pets or ferrets should take extra precautions**, including increased screening questions for clients and deeper disinfection between visits.
- c) **Curbside exchanges are optional, but still highly encouraged.**

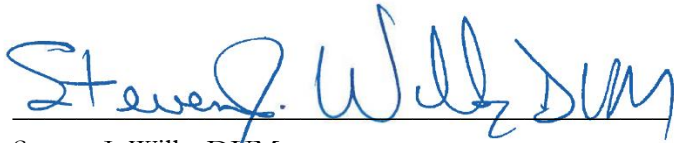
- 3) **Rabies clinics occurring in public locations** (i.e., not at a clinic or practice with COVID-19 protocols in place) are **allowable if a plan is submitted to the Board and approval of the plan is issued in advance**. KBVE has released a request form on its website at www.kybve.com/forms.html under the drop-down heading “Requests and Other Forms,” including submission instructions for seeking approval.
- 4) **Notes to equine providers**. If abiding by the Order delineated in Item 1 (protection of public health), and Item 2 (social distancing and masking), 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 in-person within the last 12 months. For a definition of a VCPR in Kentucky, see [KRS 321.185](http://krs321.185).
- 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.

This temporary Board Order shall remain in effect for the duration of the pandemic State of Emergency Orders issued by Governor Beshear. Licensees should be prepared for statewide 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.

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.

The Board understands that continued adherence to COVID-19 protocols has created hardships for many practices. Members of the KBVE express our sincere appreciation for your partnership in complying with these Orders as we work together to continue serving and protecting the citizens of the Commonwealth.



Steven J. Wills, DVM
Chairman, Kentucky Board of Veterinary Examiners

Date: March 31, 2021

From: Shane, Michelle (AGR) on behalf of KBVE
Sent: Wednesday, March 31, 2021 4:46 PM
Subject: KBVE - COVID-19 Update -- Order Update
Attachments: KBVE_COVID-19_2021-03-31_MEMO-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 Memo and Order Update from the Kentucky Board of Veterinary Examiners. Questions may be sent to Vet@ky.gov.

Michelle

Michelle M. Shane

Executive Director

Kentucky Board of Veterinary Examiners

107 Corporate Drive, Second Floor

Frankfort, KY 40601

Direct: 502-782-0273

Michelle.Shane@ky.gov

kybve.com

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