



TENNESSEE VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

TVMA and Member Concerns During the COVID-19 Pandemic

TVMA is working diligently to amass information, provide guidance to our members, and to work with state authorities to protect the health and welfare of our members and the public and animals they serve. The situation with COVID-19 is rapidly changing, but here are some things that TVMA is doing to help our members through this challenging time.

First, TVMA has reached out to the [Tennessee Public Health Department](#) and the [Department of Agriculture](#) and asked them to consider the importance of veterinary medicine in safeguarding the health of the public. Veterinary medicine, as part of the One Health concept, plays a vital role in protecting our food supply, providing surveillance for zoonotic diseases, and caring for the health of the pets in whose company people are spending increased amount of time. In the event of a closure of all non-essential businesses during a quarantine, we have asked these authorities to consider this vital role in determining the status of veterinary medicine.

Second, TVMA recognizes that supply chain shortages are a very real possibility in the coming months. Many of the items that veterinarians use on a daily basis are also used by other health care providers. Shortages of surgical masks and other personal protective equipment appears likely in the months ahead. While each veterinarian will have to assess their inventory and caseload, thought should be given to conservation of resources. Delaying elective procedures now may help to insure the availability of supplies for critical cases in the future. AVMA has provided some guidance regarding reuse of single use items. [Click here](#) to access the COVID-19 specific information on the AVMA website.

Third, some members have expressed concerns regarding continuing education requirements for 2020. TVMA has reached out to the Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners and we will keep our members abreast of any developments. Since this is an issue that is going to affect all professions that require mandatory CE for licensure, it is possible that this will be handled at the executive level and not at the Board level. Again, we are in close contact with the Board and will keep our members apprised.

Finally, TVMA is committed to providing whatever information and resources we can to our members. This event is unlike anything that any of us have experienced in our lifetimes and will impact our profession, our nation, and our world for years to come. This, combined with the social distancing and isolation that is occurring, may result in increased feelings of anxiety and depression. Don't forget about TVMA's newest member service, our Member Assistance Program, through MYgroup. Here you can access professionals that are available to help with a variety of issues: financial, legal, mental health, and personal health. And the service is free to TVMA members. See the updated MYgroup information below.



There are several resources available to you through McLaughlin Young's EAP and Work-Life Services:

Counseling: To schedule an appointment to speak with a clinician, call 1-800-633-3353.

Flyer: [Click here](#) for a new flyer Stay Calm & Reduce Fear during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Online Seminar: Starting Saturday, March 21st, Keep Calm and Carry-on – Maintaining Your Composure Amidst the Pandemic Panic will be available at [mygroup.com](#) through the Work-Life Portal.

Online Resources: There are resources about COVID-19 available now through the Work-Life Portal at [mygroup.com](#). New resources are being added on a regular basis.

[Click here](#) to read more about the new resources that have been added.

To access the MYgroup resources login with the username: **TVMA** and password: **guest**.

TVMA will continue to advocate for you, our members, the veterinary community as a whole, and the animals and their owners that veterinarians serve. This is a challenging time for our profession and for our nation. Together, we will navigate these turbulent times and we look forward to brighter days ahead.

TVMA Board & Staff

Tennessee Veterinary Medical Association, PO Box 803, Fayetteville, TN 37334
931/438-0070, tennesseevma@gmail.com, www.tvmanet.com

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