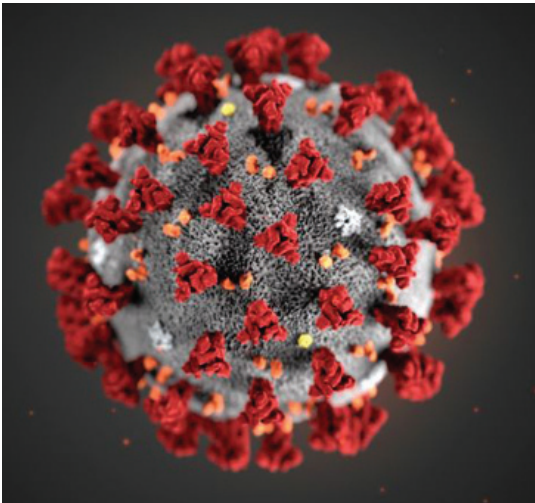


RESOURCES FOR CATTLE VETERINARIANS REGARDING THE COVID-19 OUTBREAK

Brought to you by
the American Association
of Bovine Practitioners



Veterinarians play an essential role in providing services to ensure the health and welfare of cattle on farms, ranches and feedlots. Cattle veterinarians and producers have a primary role in maintaining a safe, secure and stable food supply, therefore cattle veterinarians must maintain access to the clients and patients they serve even during the pandemic outbreak of COVID-19 while incorporating preventive measures to decrease the risk of infection to themselves and others. Cattle veterinarians are essential resources for our clients during uncertain times. This includes the current COVID-19 pandemic. This document contains recommendations from the American Association of Bovine Practitioners (AABP) for cattle veterinarians and their clients.

- **PRACTICE GOOD HYGIENE** Wash your hands on a frequent basis with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, as per CDC recommendations.
- **DO NOT GO TO WORK IF YOU ARE NOT FEELING WELL, ESPECIALLY IF YOU HAVE A COUGH OR FEVER** Your clients should inform all employees to not come to work if they are feeling unwell. Management on farms should routinely look for ill employees and immediately send them home.
- **PRACTICE SOCIAL DISTANCING WHEN POSSIBLE** If you or your staff can perform some tasks remotely, it is a reasonable precaution to institute those steps within your practice.
- **FARMS, DAIRIES, RANCHES AND FEEDLOTS SHOULD ONLY ALLOW NECESSARY AND ESSENTIAL VISITORS** Those visitors not necessary for the day-to-day operation of the business should not be allowed onto the operation.
- **SUPPLIERS HAVE STATED THAT THEY ARE NOT CURRENTLY EXPERIENCING ANY SUPPLY ISSUES** Hoarding of supplies or bulk purchasing in anticipation of a shortage is not necessary and not recommended as it could create artificial product supply issues.
- **MANY STATES HAVE URGED VETERINARIANS TO DELAY ANY ELECTIVE PROCEDURES** This likely impacts primarily mixed animal veterinarians who work with companion animals. Veterinarians are being asked to limit elective procedures to decrease social interaction and decrease the use of personal protective supplies.
- **BOTH VETERINARIANS AND PRODUCERS SHOULD HAVE PLANS AND PROTOCOLS IN PLACE IN THE EVENT OF STAFF SHORTAGES** Talk with your clients about the major job roles on their operation and assist with any cross-training where applicable. Clients should have a plan in place for continuity of day-to-day job functions in the event that employees self-isolate or are quarantined.
- **CONSIDER YOUR MENTAL HEALTH AND WELL-BEING AS WELL AS THE MENTAL HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF YOUR CLIENTS AND EMPLOYEES** The farm economy and stress of being a cattle veterinarian can be exacerbated during the uncertain times we are currently facing. Ask your clients and employees how they are doing.

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Continued from page 1

Take care of yourself. If you are experiencing a mental health crisis, we encourage you to reach out to resources in your community, colleagues, online or at the AVMA wellness resource page found at <https://www.avma.org/resources-tools/wellbeing>. Online counseling resources are available for veterinarians in rural areas to seek wellness assistance confidentially from the privacy of their home.

Visit the CDC's COVID-19 website that offers helpful guidance on "How to Prepare: Managing Anxiety and Stress," with some suggestions for things you can do to support yourself, your family, children and the community, including:

- Avoid excessive exposure to media coverage
- Take care of your body
- Make time to unwind and remind yourself that strong feelings will fade
- Connect with others
- Maintain a sense of hope and positive thinking

In case it is needed by someone, we encourage all veterinarians and producers to put the Suicide Prevention Hotline number in their phone contacts. That number is 800-273-8255 (US) or 853-456-4566 (Canada).