



COVID-19 update

In response to the second wave of COVID-19 in Ontario, the provincial government implemented targeted public health measures categorized into five zones: Green-Prevent, Yellow-Protect, Orange-Restrict, Red-Control, and Grey-Lockdown. As the pandemic continues to evolve, the situation and the transition of regions into new public health zones will remain fluid. Members are reminded that a transition from one zone to the next does not impact the provision of veterinary services, however, practice staff should continue to follow all Public Health guidance.

Practices in all regions, especially those in the grey zone, are encouraged to continue utilizing curbside measures and telemedicine when possible. In municipalities where face coverings (masks) have been mandated, they must be used in public indoor spaces and wherever physical distancing is a challenge, including workplaces that are not open to the public. Aside from masking, social distancing and hand hygiene are imperative in reducing the spread of the virus.

To find out what zone your region is in, visit your local public health unit's website or the [government's website](#). For zone restrictions and provisions, [review the Keeping Ontario Open Framework](#).

Vaccine update

Over the last week, Ontario received the first shipment of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine, a definite cause for optimism in the fight against the virus. OVMA has requested that veterinarians and their staff be prioritized, alongside other essential service providers, for [early access to the vaccine](#).

Unfortunately, the ministry hasn't provided a timeline as to when vaccinations will be available for essential service workers. This is an evolving situation, largely dependent on the procurement of more doses and the approval of additional vaccines.

The early doses of the Pfizer vaccine have been allotted for frontline human health-care workers and those in vulnerable settings (i.e. long-term care). When approved, initial doses of the Moderna vaccine are slated for remote parts of the province where the storage temperature requirement of the Pfizer vaccine is prohibitive to its transport and administration.

OVMA continues to work closely with the province on issues regarding the pandemic. The association will continue to update members as more information becomes available.

Now available: 2021 Ontario Suggested Fee Guides

In an effort to be more environmentally friendly, OVMA has emailed digital copies of the 2021 Ontario Suggested Fee Guides to members, with the option to request a hard copy. If you didn't receive a digital copy, email skrane@ovma.org. If you'd prefer to receive a hard copy, you can [request one online](#).

You can also visit the [Reports, Surveys and Fee Guides](#) section of the OVMA website to view the small and large animal procedure guides.



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