



Important update to OVMA's companion animal practice COVID-19 guidelines

When the Province of Ontario announced that veterinary practices were deemed to be essential workplaces on March 23, OVMA distributed a guide for companion animal practices regarding the provision of essential services. The guide was updated on April 7 when the province announced that veterinary practices were to offer "urgent care only." OVMA is pleased that many veterinary practices found the guide useful when determining how to offer services during the pandemic and in implementing effective social distancing protocols to protect the safety of their clients and employees.

As noted in the guide, any advice being provided by OVMA or others may change as the pandemic evolves. In light of the province's decision to extend the state of emergency until May 12 and given that it could extend well beyond that date, OVMA has revised the guide to take into account the extended period of time during which services will be curtailed.

The [revised guide](#) reflects the fact that it may not be in the best interest of patients and clients for procedures, treatments and vaccinations to be postponed indefinitely. In updating the guide, **OVMA is not advocating a return to "business as usual,"** but rather providing guidance to ensure optimal outcomes for animals and animal owners, while continuing to support social distancing efforts. **As previously noted, the guide is just that—a guide. Veterinarians must use their professional judgement to determine whether certain services or procedures are appropriate for specific patients based on their individual circumstances and balance the need for treatment with the associated risk to the health of the client and the practice team.**

[View the revised guide](#) or access it on OVMA's [Coronavirus FAQ web page](#).

Webinar: Personal Finances - How to Keep Yourself Afloat During a Pandemic

OVMA will host a webinar **April 22 at noon called Personal Finances - How to Keep Yourself Afloat During a Pandemic.** The webinar will be presented by Dr. Chris Doherty, OVMA's economic analyst.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, help and support are available for individuals. From the Canada Emergency Response Benefit to extra time to file and pay your taxes, the federal government has introduced numerous programs to help Canadians weather financial hardship they may experience in the upcoming months. This 45-minute webinar will highlight what's available to individuals, using realistic example scenarios and addressing common questions such as, "What if I'm a locum veterinarian and my income has fallen dramatically, but isn't zero?" It will also explore methods and strategies that individuals

can employ to minimize their expenses, keep cash flow for essentials and maintain income as much as possible.

For those who can't attend, the webinar will be recorded and made available to OVMA members.

[Join the webinar](#) (Password: 0756)

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