



## NewsHound

Your Veterinary News Source.



## Veterinary services considered essential by province

On Monday, March 23, the provincial government declared Ontario in a state of emergency in response to the global COVID-19 pandemic. As of midnight, on Tuesday, March 24, all non-essential services are to be closed in Ontario for 14 days. **The government has deemed businesses that provide veterinary services essential. Practices may remain open and provide essential services while following best practices for infection control.**

Other businesses declared essential include:

- Businesses that supply veterinary and animal control medications and related supplies and testing kits.
- Businesses engaged in the wholesale or retail sale of pet food and supplies.
- Businesses that provide essential items for the health and welfare of animals, including feed, animal food, pet food and animal supplies including bedding.
- Businesses that support the food supply chain, including assembly yards, livestock auctions, food distribution hubs, feed mills, farm equipment suppliers, feed suppliers, food terminals and warehouses, animal slaughter plants and grain elevators.
- Businesses that support the safety of food, including animal and plant health and animal welfare.

[View the complete list of essential workplaces.](#)

### Companion Animal Practice Guide to Elective and Essential Services

In allowing veterinary practices to remain open, the province has placed tremendous trust in the veterinary profession to operate in a manner that, to the extent possible, prevents the spread of COVID-19. To that end, OVMA has worked with Dr. Scott Weese to develop a [guide](#) to practicing companion animal medicine in a manner that protects both veterinary staff and clients during the current pandemic. OVMA extends its sincere appreciation to Dr. Weese, not only for his tremendous work to develop the guide, but for all that he's

done to assist the veterinary profession during the current pandemic. [View the veterinary practice guide.](#)

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## Donating excess personal protective equipment and ventilators

As the COVID-19 crisis unfolds, veterinarians are receiving requests from human health-care agencies for supplies, particularly personal protective equipment (PPE) and ventilators. This poses an ethical dilemma for veterinarians, who are at the intersection of public health and animal health and welfare. The decision concerning whether or not to donate supplies to human medicine must be made individually by each practice. A practice choosing to donate supplies and equipment should keep in mind the likelihood of long-term shortages of these materials and consider the implications to their practice needs and animal health.

If your practice has PPE and/or ventilators it can spare, the Province of Ontario has [established a website](#) where businesses can easily indicate what they have to offer. The province will then determine how best to make use of the available resources.

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## New link: COVID-19 employment law webinar: March 25, noon - 1 p.m.

Due to the popularity of the webinar on COVID-19 employment law on Wednesday, March 25 from noon to 1 p.m., we've had to switch the online room, so there's a new link. To join the webinar, [click here](#). The password is 970422.

You can also join by iPhone one-tap:

Canada: +14388097799 or +15873281099 (webinar ID: 415 555 035)

Or by telephone (for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):

Canada: +1.438.809.7799 or +1.587.328.1099 or +1.647.374.4685 or +1.647.558.0588 or +1.778.907 2071

U.S.: +1.346.248.7799 or +1.646.558.8656 or +1.669.900.9128 or +1.253.215.8782 or +1.301.715 8592 or +1.312.626.6799

Webinar ID: 415 555 035

The webinar will also be recorded and made available to OVMA members who are unable to attend live.

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## Your banker can help

OVMA has approached the banks to see what services or assistance they could offer to veterinary practices during the COVID-19 pandemic and was assured they are ready to help. Contact your account manager to review all the potential programs and assistance available to you as both an individual and as a business. To help manage loan payments,

the banks have offered support ranging from interest-only payments to deferral of payments, depending on the type and purpose of the loan. Your banker can also advise you on options to support expense management and cash flow.

## OVMA is here to help

Do you have questions about COVID-19? While OVMA's physical office is closed, all staff are working remotely and are available to assist members during the current crisis. [View the OVMA staff directory.](#)



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