



Provincial government lifts urgent care provision for veterinary services

On May 14, Premier Doug Ford announced the next set of businesses allowed to reopen under the provincial government's Reopening After COVID-19 framework. As part of that announcement, the province removed the "urgent care only" limitation on veterinary services and has allowed pet groomers to open (by appointment only), effective Tuesday, May 19. As of that date, veterinary practices will be able to offer a full range of services, including preventive care. The extent to which practices choose to expand the services they offer as of May 19 will be up to each individual practice to determine.

As veterinary practices contemplate expanding the range of services offered, they are reminded that social distancing measures are still in effect. Effective implementation of such measures will be essential to ensuring that employees feel comfortable working in the practice as it expands its service offerings. Practice owners and managers are encouraged to work with their staff to implement protocols to protect the health and safety of both employees and clients. To assist in that regard, OVMA has worked with Dr. Scott Weese to develop [A Guide to Reopening Veterinary Medicine in Ontario](#). Members may also want to check out OVMA's webinar recording on [Strategies for Dealing with Post-COVID Clients, Finances and Production](#).

OVMA has been in communication with the College of Veterinarians of Ontario and the Ontario Association of Veterinary Technicians throughout this pandemic. All three organizations have shared member concerns, stories, struggles and triumphs. We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks and commendation to Ontario's veterinary teams over the last two months. You have continually been thrown new challenges and reintegrating non-urgent care into practice is yet another one. We hope that veterinarians, registered veterinary technicians and the whole veterinary team can continue to work cooperatively to adapt once again as the province reopens.

If you have any questions about the reopening framework in Ontario, contact Brandi Deimling at bdeimling@ovma.org.

Applications for the Canada Emergency Student Benefit will open tomorrow

The application process for the Canada Emergency Student Benefit (CESB) will be open as of Friday, May 15. Students can apply for CESB through the Canada Revenue Agency's My Account portal.

CESB is designed for post-secondary students who aren't eligible for the Canada Emergency Response Benefit. Eligible students will receive \$1,250 per month from May to August 2020. Students with a disability or who are taking care of someone during that period will receive \$2,000 per month. All payments will be made retroactive to May 1, 2020. Students who are working and earning less than \$1,000 per month can also apply for CESB. Visit the [CESB web page](#) for additional information.

Guidance released on testing of animals for COVID-19

The Council of Chief Veterinary Officers (CCVO) recently released a position statement regarding the testing of animals for COVID-19 (SARS-COV-2). While it's recognized that there may be exceptional circumstances, CCVO is not recommending testing at this time. Read the [full position statement and testing condition requirements](#). If an animal requires a COVID-19 test and meets the criteria set out by the CCVO, CFIA has provided a guidance document for laboratory testing which can be [viewed here](#).

OVMA COVID-19 survey #4

As the COVID-19 pandemic develops, OVMA would like to monitor and keep track of how different practices are approaching the current situation, as well as how this evolves over time. We believe it will be helpful for veterinarians to know what others in the profession are doing.

To that end, veterinarians in clinical practice are being surveyed at regular intervals, to ascertain this information. The results will be published in NewsHound and can also be accessed on our [Coronavirus FAQ](#) web page. The survey will remain open until the evening of May 15. [Fill out the survey](#).

Digital export certificates for live bovine

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) and the United States Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA-APHIS) have come to an agreement that as of June 1, 2020, the U.S. will accept electronically signed health certificates (i.e. certificates that are requested and issued via My CFIA) for the import of live cattle and bison at all U.S. points of entry. Regular certification will continue to be accepted by the USDA.

An electronic export certificate pilot program using My CFIA for live bovine to the U.S. began in November 2019 in Manitoba. This work is continuing and will be expanded to additional ports in measured stages, based on industry and CFIA readiness.

To learn more about My CFIA and how to enroll, visit www.inspection.gc.ca/mycfia. If you are a live cattle or bison exporter or an associated accredited veterinarian and are interested in using electronic export certificates, contact Rachel Wheat at rachel.wheat@canada.gc.ca.

2020 Virtual Dairy Summit

Zoetis will be holding a virtual dairy summit by offering a series of webinars this May and June. The 2020 Virtual Dairy Summit is an online educational initiative for Canadian veterinarians to support your business and promote innovative approaches to prevention and early detection of disease in dairy herds. The program includes:

- May 27: The Six Drivers of Profitability
- June 3: Update on Immunity in Dairy Cattle in the Transition Period
- June 10: Dry off Therapy 2.0
- June 17: The Advantages of SmartBow

[View the event flyer](#) for additional information or [register online](#).



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