

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ON MICHIGAN STAY HOME, STAY SAFE ORDER

Updated March 26, 2020

Are veterinarians considered to be essential workers under Gov. Whitmer's Stay Home, Stay Safe Executive Order (EO 2020-21)?

Yes. The Governor's order allows veterinarians to continue to work regardless of practice area.

Read the full order here: <https://michvma.org/resources/Documents/COVID-19/EO%202020-21%20Stay%20Home,%20Stay%20Safe.pdf>

Do essential employees need to carry proof of employment or other travel papers?

As of right now, we don't believe so. We are working with lawmakers to get more information, but staff should not worry about carrying around documentation at this point.

You can use this template to contact your employees with information essential to your practice: <https://michvma.org/resources/Documents/COVID-19/Draft%20Essential%20Business%20Memo.docx>

MVMA is recommending veterinarians reschedule all elective procedures until the order is over. What types of services and procedures are considered to be crucial to animal health?

Veterinarians need to use their professional judgement in determining what procedures could safely be delayed. The current order is in place for three weeks, though it could end up being longer. We ask that during the time of this Order, you focus on key areas of practice that promote public health, protect our food supply, and provide health services to animals. Procedures such as vaccinations, addressing medical issues, and herd health activities should be maintained. While routine spay/neuter surgeries can often be delayed a short time, in some instances, a veterinarian may determine that delay would negatively impact the animal's health.

A goal of EO 2020-21 is to suppress the spread of COVID-19 by stopping the movement and interaction of people as much as possible. In a One Health approach, veterinarians can contribute to this effort by delaying some activities when possible and maintaining activities that have the highest impact on serving animal health and supporting public health during this COVID-19 pandemic.

Who should I contact if I have questions about exposure in my clinic to COVID-19?

While we are all taking steps to keep hands washed, to keep hands away from our face, and to stay 6 feet away from other people, exposures and disease transmission are still occurring. If you have a situation about what to do in the face of an exposure, or if you or one of your staff members becomes ill, there are a number of resources available for guidance. These include:

- Contact your own physician for guidance on your care and follow up actions.
- Consult your local health department if you need assistance in determining whether there was an exposure or how exposures of staff members should be handled. Here is a link to a [map of local health departments](#) in Michigan along with contact information.
- Consult [CDC risk assessment guidelines](#).
- Consult the [Michigan Coronavirus website](#). Questions can be directed to MDHHS via a hot-line telephone number or email.

- Consult the Michigan Coronavirus website on [Resources/For Employers & Workers](#) for information about topics such as how to handle sick leave and new unemployment directives.