

# Covid-19 Emergency Plan

NORTHWEST VETERINARY & SUPPLY

DAVID A BARZ DVM

# Introduction

The priority for all of us at Northwest Vet Supply is to make sure that everyone stays safe and healthy. It is also our responsibility to maintain animal health and welfare and work proactively to make sure that our clients can keep producing an ample safe and secure food supply for our nation. The situation in each geographical area is changing rapidly as new information becomes available and part of our responsibility as veterinarians is to stay up to speed on the latest developments and help our clients respond accordingly.

We South Dakotans are a strong, hearty bunch. We have endured floods, blizzards and electrical outages for many years. We are accustomed to preparing and having supplies on hand for ourselves and our livestock. Our leaders have prepared for livestock emergencies and we all understand quarantines. The only difference is this time it is a human pathogen and not something affecting our livestock. As livestock producers you have two primary responsibilities:

1. Your family's health
2. Your livestock's health

We must provide food, water and shelter for our animals so we can maintain the food chain needed to allow our city friends to eat while they are quarantined.

The Government has listed people involved in agriculture as essential personnel. Although quarantined, the country must eat. Imagine the chaos in the city if there was no food. We are all responsible for our animals wellbeing and we here at NWVet intend to be there to help in any way we can. Our offices will remain open with some moderate changes and we will continue to run emergency calls both day and night. We must all do our part to maintain the food chain in our state and country through these troubled times.

COVID-19 has not been demonstrated or recovered from any animal population, domestic or wild. We therefore assume it is not threat to livestock or pets. Humans appear to be the only host. Its significance to the population is the effect on the working people and their food chain.

# Emergency Plan Covid-19

As states grapple with COVID-19 mitigation, questions have immediately arisen as to whether veterinary practices are considered "essential businesses." The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), its 95,000 plus members, and key veterinary stakeholders urge that veterinary practices be considered "essential businesses" in cases where non-essential retail facilities are asked to close or repurpose personal protective equipment (PPE) due to COVID-19. Veterinary teams provide essential animal care, play a critical role in protecting the health of animals that enter the food supply, and serve as trusted members of the local community in disaster situations.

Last week, risk mitigation strategies to slow the spread of COVID-19 were announced by the federal government and many state and local governments. In some localities, such as San Francisco, and states, like Maryland and Pennsylvania, veterinary practices are appropriately considered "essential businesses." They recognized that the services veterinary teams provide are critical to animal and public health, and thereby specifically designated veterinary practices as "essential businesses," in line with other healthcare providers, supermarkets, and pharmacies. We urge all authorities to similarly designate veterinary practices as essential businesses, and also ensure their ability to obtain necessary medical supplies.

Veterinary practices provide the following essential services:

1. Frontline veterinary practitioners and staff are among the healthcare professionals who provide surveillance for diseases deemed reportable by state and federal governments, including zoonotic diseases, such as rabies, influenza and Lyme Disease. They are also responsible for issuing certificates of veterinary inspection that are required for the movement of animals between states and countries, including those entering the food supply.
2. Veterinarians are an integral part of our nation's food and fiber industries. Veterinary care is critical to ensure that only healthy animals enter the food supply. While primarily housed on farms, food animals are also present in urban areas.
3. Veterinary practices provide medical and surgical care daily for critically ill and injured animals.
4. Veterinarians provide care for service and therapy animals, supporting both animal and human welfare.
5. Veterinarians also oversee the care of laboratory animals, which are critical to research that leads to the development of pharmaceuticals and biologics, including vaccines such as those currently being developed to combat COVID-19.
6. Veterinarians care for rare, threatened, and endangered animals in zoos, aquaria, wildlife rehabilitation clinics, and wildlife facilities. Even if such entities need to be closed to the public for COVID-19 mitigation, veterinarians and animal care staff must continue to care for these animals.

7. Veterinarians and our support staff are trusted professionals involved in disaster situations. While perhaps different from a statutory and regulatory perspective, the training, education, and experience of veterinarians and our staff in disasters are clearly transferrable skills in whatever COVID-19 risk mitigation is deemed necessary.

For the reasons listed above, we urge lawmakers and state executives to protect and preserve public health and ensure that veterinary practices are clearly stated to be "essential businesses" and thereby allowed to continue to provide critical services in our communities.

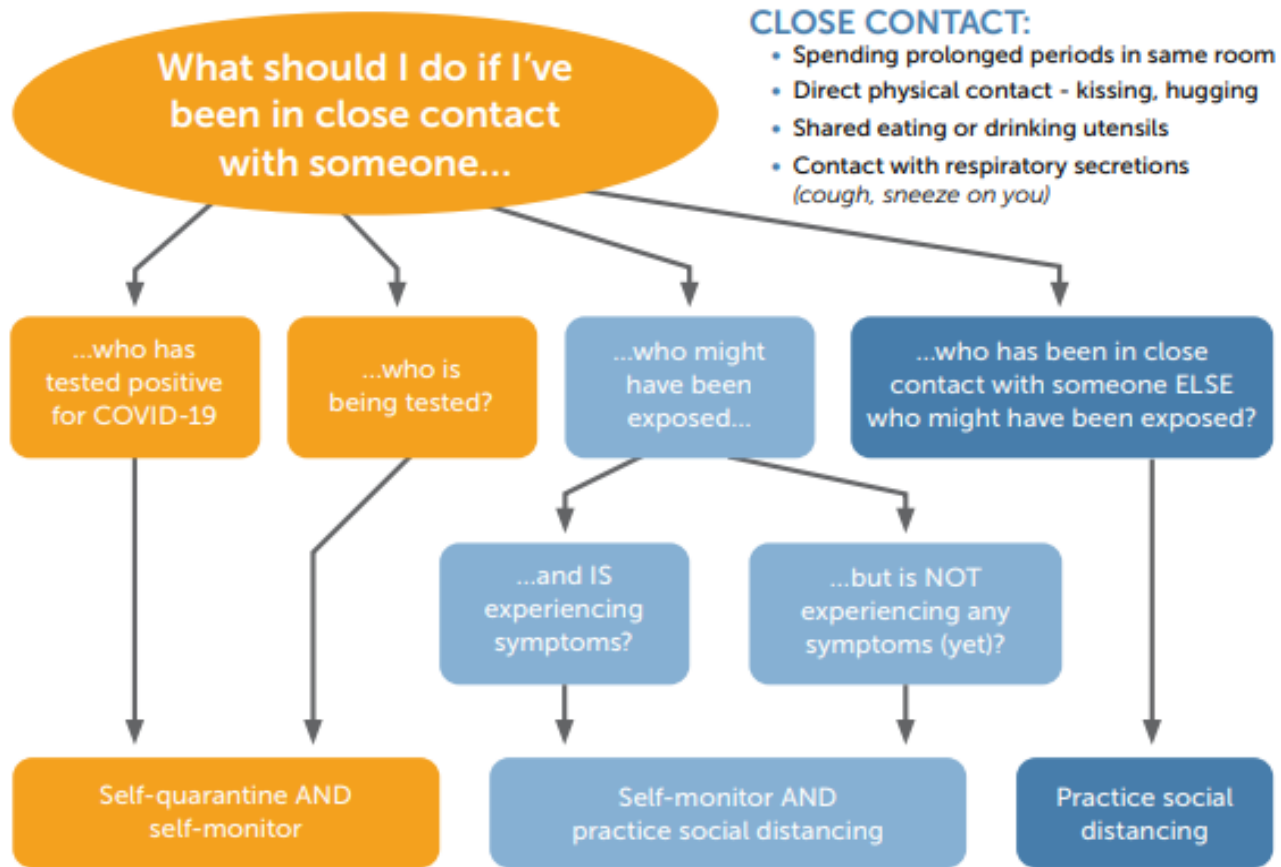
### **Essential Clinic Staff:**

- All staff are deemed essential to the operation of the clinics.
- The health and welfare of our staff is of primary importance.
- We will operate normal, regular hours.

### **Action Steps by Northwest Vet Supply**

- Closely monitor the CDC, WHO, and state and local public health department websites for information the status of COVID-19;
- Proactively educate employees on what is known about the virus, including its transmission and prevention;
- Establish a written communicable illness policy and response plan that covers communicable diseases readily transmitted in the workplace; and
- Consider measures that can help prevent the spread of illness, such as allowing employees flexible work options like working from home if possible.
- Any employee choosing to enforce personal (self) quarantine will be granted leave of absence

# COVID-19 PANDEMIC



**WHAT IF I HAVE SYMPTOMS?** Call your healthcare provider.



SOUTH DAKOTA  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

[covid.sd.gov](https://covid.sd.gov)

*Developed from an infographic by the City of Sioux Falls.*

## HOW DO I....

### Self-Quarantine

- Stay home for 14 days
- Avoid contact with other people
- Don't share household items

### Self –Monitor

- Be alert for symptoms of COVID-19,
- Especially a dry cough or shortness of breath
- Take your temperature every morning and write it down.
- Call your doctor if you have trouble breathing or have a fever (104 F / 38 C)
- Do not see medical treatment without calling first.

### Practice Social Distancing

- Stay home as much as possible
- Don't physically get close to people
- Try to stay 6 feet away,
- Do not hug or shake hands
- Avoid groups of people
- Be aware of frequently touched surfaces, including doorknobs, elevator buttons, service counters, shared pens, touch screens, steering wheels and cell phone.

# OFFICE POLICY

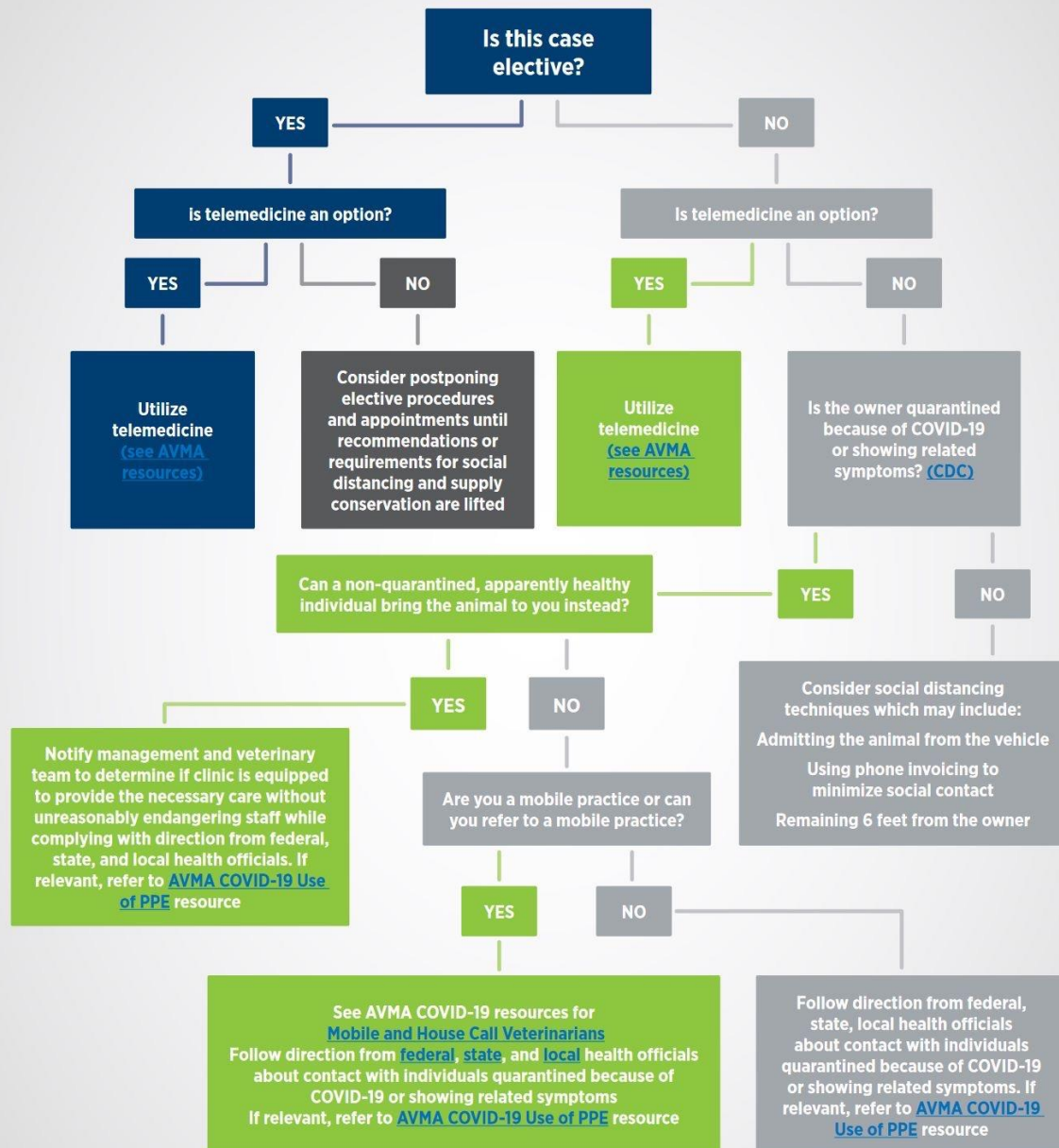
## Office Social Distancing

- Avoid groups
  - No morning staff meetings
  - No manager meeting
  - No client trainings
  - No staff trainings
  - No group meals
- Maintain 6 feet if possible between yourself and others
- Conduct as much business electronically as possible
  - Curbside service
  - Farm delivery
  - Phone ahead ordering and packaging
  - Haul in
    - Call ahead
    - Adhere to schedule
    - Avoid congestion in all work areas
- Stay home if ill
- Personal hygiene
  - Wash hands (soap and water or disinfectant)
  - Cough and sneeze into your elbow
  - Refrain from touching your face
  - Make sure tissues are available in your office
  - Personal hygiene items should be stored and disposed of properly.
- Workplace Disinfecting
  - Clean & disinfect area continually
  - Includes door handles and knobs, counter tops – anything touched by other people
  - Wipe down Credit Card machines
  - Avoid handling cash if possible – use gloves when taking cash
  - If client use a pen, it is theirs – get more pens for your office if needed
  - Make sure all your personal items are put away at the end of the day so no one has to touch them for any reason.
  - Stay home if ill
    - Dry cough
    - Trouble breathing
    - Temp of over 100.4°
  - Utilize electronic telemedicine when possible –
    - Phone
    - Facetime
    - Text
    - Messaging etc.

**Utilize personal social distancing when not at work.**

# MINIMIZING COVID-19 EXPOSURE

## and social distancing in veterinary practice



# Northwest Veterinary & Supply Signage

## Northwest Veterinary & Supply

 <p><b>VISITOR PRECAUTIONS</b></p>	<p><b>IF YOU OR SOMEONE YOU ARE WITH:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• HAS A FEVER, COUGH OR SHORT- NESS OF BREATH</li><li>• KNOWN EXPOSURE TO SOMEONE DIAGNOSED WITH <b>COVID-19</b></li><li>• HAS TRAVELED INTERNATIONALLY IN THE LAST 14 DAYS</li></ul> <p><b><u>PLEASE CALL OUR PHONE NUMBER <b>605-928-3025</b> AND WE WILL ASSIT YOU OUTSIDE OF OUR OFFICE AREA.</u></b></p>
---	---

- Avoid all contact with individuals tested positive for COVID-19
  - Have someone else pick up product needed
  - Have someone else deliver and pick up animals
- Have all clients limit time in office
  - Help them come in and out quickly
- Be prepared for drive ups and carry outs
- Rural delivery for product

## Salebarn Protocol

It is important to keep our salebarns operating to ensure cash flow and marketing.

We will continue inspections of Menno & Mitchell.





## **SD ANIMAL INDUSTRY BOARD**

411 South Fort Street

Pierre, South Dakota 57501-4503

Phone: (605) 773-3321

Fax: (605) 773-5459

March 19, 2020

To: SD Livestock Auction Markets

From: Dustin Oedekoven, State Veterinarian

RE: Health recommendations for livestock market management

The South Dakota Animal Industry Board office is closed until further notice, per the Governor's executive order as a result of the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic. Office staff continue to work from home where possible. You may also contact me at 605-280-6448 with any questions you may have.

Livestock auction markets provide an essential service in our communities. While there are many uncertainties surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, there are steps you can take to limit potential impact from SARS-CoV-2.

Encourage your staff and community members to protect their personal health.

Post the signs and symptoms of COVID-19: fever, cough, shortness of breath.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/communication/factsheets.html>

Require employees to stay home when sick and follow these sick-leave suggestions:

- Identify critical functions and develop plans for how to staff those functions with increased staff absences.
- Emphasize cross-training and develop backup plans for those "must-do" functions.
- One sick employee staying home may be an inconvenience, but an entire team of sick employees can make it difficult to keep your business open.

Clean surfaces that are frequently touched like shared equipment, computers, doors, vending machines, and any shared items.

- Use approved cleaning agents and follow the directions on the label.
- Provide disposable wipes (if available) so commonly used surfaces can be wiped down by employees before each use.
- **Emphasize covering coughs and sneezes and hand hygiene by all employees:**

- • Place posters encouraging cough and sneeze etiquette, and hand hygiene at building entrances and in other workplace areas where they are likely to be seen.
- • Provide tissues and “no-touch” garbage bins for use by employees.
- • Instruct employees to clean their hands regularly with soap and water.
- • If soap and water isn’t available, provide alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60-95% alcohol.
- **Consider options to maintain social distancing:**
  - Evaluate the workflow at your facility to reduce interactions between people.
    - Consider limiting attendance at sales
    - Immune compromised, elderly, and ill people should be discouraged from attending the sale in person
    - Consider limiting attendance to bidders and buyers – making electronic means of bidding or phone bidding available wherever possible.
    - Limit employee meetings or hold them over the phone.
- **Monitor public health communications about COVID-19 recommendations and ensure that workers have access to that information. Frequently check the CDC COVID-19 website: [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov)**
- **Stay up to date on developments in your community:**
  - <https://doh.sd.gov/news/Coronavirus.aspx>
- **Advise employees who plan to travel or are returning from travel:**
  - Check the CDC’s Traveler’s Health Notices for the latest guidance and recommendations for each region to which you will travel.
  - Advise employees to check themselves for symptoms of acute respiratory illness before starting travel and notify their supervisor and stay home if they are sick.
  - Employees who become sick while traveling should notify their supervisor immediately and should promptly call a healthcare provider for advice if needed.
- **Collaborate with workers to designate effective means of communicating important COVID-19 information.**
- **Please see additional information from the Livestock Market Association here:**
- <http://lmaweb.com/covid-19/>

# Conclusion

The Corona virus pandemic will not be over in a short time. As an essential business we will:

- Protect ourselves
- Protect our community
- Protect our state
- Protect our nation

while maintaining the health of our livestock and animals thereby perpetuating the food chain for the world.

Our Staff will:

1. Monitor COVID-19 and its spread
  - Help clients understand what is happening and steps they can take to protect themselves and their animals
2. Provide quality care for livestock and assure production and harvest during this pandemic'
3. Operate using social distancing and quarantines
4. Help maintain the economic infrastructure of our area.
5. Interact with emergency personnel
6. Improve community attitude
  - The pandemic has the community in a panic. We need to help encourage a positive attitude
7. Pray for guidance and deliverance.

**This is very trying time in all of our lives that will require sacrifice from everyone. Together we can overcome COVID-19. As in past history, once we weather the storm, the rewards will be great.**