



Dear CVMA Member,

03/20/20

Veterinarians play an essential role in providing services to ensure public health. The AVMA, ISVMA and CVMA fought for veterinary offices to remain open as essential services. **The Governor announced today that "Healthcare and Public Health Operations also includes veterinary care and all healthcare services provided to animals"**. It is our duty to ensure we are taking this responsibility seriously. If we abuse this classification, then not only are we exposing ourselves, our staff and our clients to undue risk, we are also not living up to our responsibility to our community.

The country is experiencing an acceleration phase of COVID-19, so many more new cases are expected in the near future. Many states and cities have ordered all healthcare providers to cancel elective surgeries in order to decrease personal interaction and preserve PPE. We recommend that all non-essential procedures be postponed until such time these restrictions no longer exist.

Recommendations for handling ill employee (based on new Chicago order for healthcare workers)

- Any symptomatic person with known exposure should remain home for 14 days after known exposure
- Any symptomatic person with unknown exposure should remain home for 7 days after becoming symptomatic and then for at least 72 hours after complete resolution of symptoms (specifically no fever without use of a fever reducer for at least 72 consecutive hours)
- CVMA members and other businesses can use the same protocol in determining when to let an ill employee return to work. Employers should advise employees to be in contact with their physicians' offices regarding diagnosis and treatment
- You should inform all employees to not come to work if they are feeling unwell

Take care of yourself

- Avoid excessive exposure to media coverage
- Take care of your body
- Make time to unwind
- Connect with others
- Maintain a sense of hope and positive thinking

Take care of others

- Practice Good Hygiene - Wash your hands on a frequent basis with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, as per CDC recommendations
- Do not go to work if you are not feeling well, ESPECIALLY IF YOU HAVE A COUGH OR FEVER
- Practice social distancing when possible - If you or your staff can perform some tasks remotely, it is a reasonable precaution to institute those steps within your practice
- Hospitals should only allow necessary and essential visitors
- Hoarding of supplies or bulk purchasing in anticipation of a shortage is not recommended as it could create artificial product supply issues
- Veterinarians should have plans and protocols in place in the event of staff shortages
- Consider your mental health and well-being, as well as the mental health and well-being of your clients and staff - Ask your clients and employees how they are doing

In this unprecedented time, we are all facing challenges we could not imagine just weeks ago, but we know what they are and can adapt to meet them. The veterinary profession is resilient as well as necessary and we will get through this together.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Linda Kopija".

Dr. Linda Kopija

CVMA President