



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
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BOARD OF VETERINARY EXAMINERS

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Alaska Board of Veterinary Examiners

Best Practices for Veterinarians During COVID-19 Under [Health Mandate 15](#)

According to HM15, after April 20th, 2020, veterinarians will be able to resume low-risk, routine-type services which require minimal protective equipment. Furthermore, starting on May 4th, 2020, veterinarians will be able to resume surgeries and intensive procedures.

The following requirements need to be met:

- Veterinarians and facilities shall make every effort to minimize physical contact with clients (a minimum of a six-foot distance) by continuing curbside pickup of patients, utilizing telehealth, phone consultations, and physical barriers between staff and clients whenever possible.
- All veterinarians/ veterinary facilities shall deploy universal masking procedures with a minimum of a cloth face covering worn at all times.
- All commonly touched surfaces shall be sanitized regularly.
- Ensure veterinarians or staff do not come to work when ill.
- Procedures are prioritized based on whether their continued delay will have an adverse medical outcome.
- Facilities must maintain a plan to reduce or stop performing surgeries and procedures should a surge or resurgence of COVID-19 cases occur.
- Facilities should maintain adequate PPE supplies on hand.
- All clients admitted to facilities must be screened for symptoms of COVID-19, recent travel, fever, or recent exposure to COVID-19.
- Visitors to veterinary facilities should be limited to a minimal number of people for end-of-life services (i.e. 1-2 people). A caregiver may, at the discretion of the attending veterinarian, enter a facility on the day-of-surgery or day-of-procedure, and at discharge if necessary. Allowed visitors **MUST** wear a face covering.

*While this mandate allows veterinarians to resume delivery of routine services, they are not required to do so. Veterinarians should weigh the health risks to their staff and their patients/ clients when deciding to resume in-person services.

If you have any questions, please contact boardofveterinaryexaminers@alaska.gov.