



# Veterinary Examining Board

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We have received a number of questions regarding the [statewide prohibition against mass gatherings](#) of more than 10 people, which was issued March 17 by Gov. Tony Evers under Emergency Order No. 5.

At this time, this prohibition does *not* apply to employees in a veterinarian clinic. That means that your staff working in the clinic are not considered a prohibited mass gathering.

However, this order does apply to waiting rooms, meaning that veterinarian clinics are prohibited from having 10 or more people in their waiting area at any time. Additionally, those in your waiting rooms are required to maintain a distance of at least 6 feet from one another.

We advise you to:

- Routinely disinfect your waiting area.
- Do your best to keep patients from coming to the clinic unless it is absolutely necessary; reschedule all nonessential appointments.
- Have clients wait in their car while you treat their animal, if possible. Discussions on symptoms and treatments can be held over the phone.
- Provide short-term extensions of prescriptions by phone, if it is medically appropriate.
- Act in a reasonable and medically appropriate way to treat your patients using telemedicine. A Veterinarian-Client-Patient Relationship (VCPR) may not be established using telemedicine, but appropriate medical actions can be taken

without a physical exam if there is an existing VCPR.

There is no statutory or administrative rule that sets a time frame on frequency of physical exams to maintain a valid VCPR. Annual exams are the standard in most situations. Given the current circumstances, you should use sound judgement regarding whether a physical exam is necessary based on the medical concern and what is appropriate based on that concern (assuming there is an established VCPR).

Stay up to date on COVID-19 by:

- Visiting the [State of Wisconsin's resources page](#). It provides updates and answers to critical questions from a number of state agencies.
- Visiting the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) website](#). It offers the latest on travel advisories, preventative measures, and information on COVID-19 and animals.
- Visiting the [American Veterinary Medical Association \(AVMA\) website](#). It includes FAQs for pet owners, and FAQs for veterinarians and veterinary clinics. Both documents can be found on the left side of the page.

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**Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection**

Division of Animal Health

[https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/About\\_Us/VeterinaryExaminingBoard.aspx](https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/About_Us/VeterinaryExaminingBoard.aspx)

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