



nasphv

national association of state
public health veterinarians

23 March 2020

SUBJECT: Essential Business Designation; COVID-19 Response

TO: State Public Health Veterinarians

Please share this recommendation with appropriate parties in your state government when making determinations about essential businesses regarding your COVID-19 response. Several states have already deemed veterinary practices to be “essential businesses” and we seek to ensure a consistent designation across jurisdictions.

Veterinary and/or animal health issues in coordination with the U.S. Department of Agriculture are designated as critical infrastructure by the Department of Homeland Security Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency (https://www.cisa.gov/sites/default/files/publications/CISA_Guidance_on_the_Essential_Critical_Infrastructure_Workforce_508C_0.pdf).

In addition, the NASPHV recommends that veterinary services should be considered part of Healthcare and Public Health. Furthermore veterinary care and all healthcare services provided to animals should be considered "essential businesses." Veterinary personnel provide essential services that include but are not limited to the following:

1. Veterinary critical and emergency care
2. Administration of initial rabies vaccination to unvaccinated domestic animals in areas with terrestrial rabies variants
3. Administration of booster rabies vaccination to domestic animals with confirmed or suspected rabies exposure
4. Administration of other vaccinations to domestic animals in response to local or regional outbreaks (e.g., parvovirus, distemper virus, influenza virus)
5. Diagnosis and reporting of notifiable veterinary conditions (e.g., foreign animal diseases and others requiring movement restrictions)
6. Physical examination and completion of Certificates of Veterinary Inspection for interstate movement of animals
7. Community animal control and sheltering services

The NASPHV supports the position taken by the AVMA (<https://www.avma.org/resources-tools/animal-health-and-welfare/covid-19/veterinary-practices-are-essential-businesses>) and states designating veterinary practices as essential businesses.

Carl Williams, DVM, DACVPM
President, NASPHV