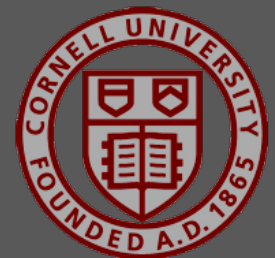


# Cornell University Veterinary Specialists

## CUVS COVID-19 TASK FORCE WEBINAR

Thursday, April 2nd / 7 P.M.



# TASKFORCE: Members

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- Christiana Treglia. *Director, Clinical Operations*
- Christina Michaels. *Procurement Director*
- Kara Mertz. *Director, Talent & Learning*
- Barry Short. *Finance Controller*
- Dawn Macchiarelli. *Marketing & Communications Mgr*
- Dr. Marnin Forman. *Internist*
- Dr. Anusha Balakrishnan. *Criticalist*
- Dr. Anthony Gonzalez. *Criticalist*
- Dr. Rachel Wynne. *Ophthalmologist*
- Dr. Elizabeth Falk. *Dermatologist*
- Dr. Susan Hackner. *CMO & COO*



# GOAL

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**To remain open to serve the patients that need us,  
for as long as possible**

➡ Keep staff healthy

- Safe
- Responsible
- Informed



# TASKFORCE

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- Information gathering

  - General

    - National, CT state, NY state
    - SHRM, sphere-specific

  - Veterinary/Medical

    - AVMA, NYSVMS, CTVMA
    - ACVECC, ACVIM
    - VSG, VHMA, etc
    - ProMed, human med

- Assessment

  - Policies, protocols, processes – communicate, implement, monitor, adjust

  - Triage, reprioritize



# TOPICS

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- Exposure, social distancing – clients and others
- Hygiene and vigilance – PPE use, disinfection
- COVID-19 in pets
- Relevant veterinary legislature – telemed, DEA, etc
- Illness, staff exposure, time off
- Staff planning - hours, furlough, lay offs
- Financial aspects
- Resources
- How can CUVS help?



# MINIMIZING EXPOSURE

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- Number of exposures
  - Caseload- minimize to urgent and emergent only
- Type of exposure
  - Maximize distancing, minimize contact
- Exposure risk
  - Minimize contact with shedding people
  - Minimize contact with contaminated surfaces
- Protection
  - PPE
  - Disinfection



# Infection Control Resources

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- PPE Guidelines

Appropriate donning and doffing

- [https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/A\\_FS\\_HCP\\_COVID19\\_PPE\\_11x17.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/A_FS_HCP_COVID19_PPE_11x17.pdf)

- Disinfection Guidelines

- <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2>
- [https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cleaning-disinfection.html?CDC\\_AA\\_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fprepare%2Fcleaning-disinfection.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cleaning-disinfection.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fprepare%2Fcleaning-disinfection.html)

- Guidelines for Animal Handling

- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/interim-guidance-managing-people-in-home-care-and-isolation-who-have-pets.html>
- <http://www.nasphv.org/Documents/VeterinaryStandardPrecautions.pdf>



# COVID-19 in Pets

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- No confirmed cases of ‘reverse zoonosis’ of COVID-19
- No evidence pet animals are a source of the virus
- A person with COVID-19 can “shed” the virus onto their pet, who could then infect a healthy individual who pets them. All animals with fur, from dogs and cats, even ferrets, hamsters, and guinea pigs, can potentially play a role.





# COVID-19 in Pets

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- In Hong Kong, 3 pet animals have tested PCR positive
  - Dog #1 17-year-old Pomeranian, Weak Positive, Also antibody positive, Died of undetermined cause
  - Dog #2 2-year-old GSD, Positive twice then Negative
  - Cat #1 DSH, oral cavity, nasal, and rectal samples tested positive, may or may not have had clinical signs of the disease
  - All cases are pets from households of COVID-19 positive humans  
In Hong Kong, all mammalian pets from COVID-19+ households are advised to be put in quarantine facilities.
- In the USA, no cats or dogs have tested PCR positive
  - IDEXX labs, >4000 samples, no false positives reported



# COVID-19 in Animals

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**Susceptibility of ferrets, cats, dogs, and different domestic animals to SARS-coronavirus-2**

Hualan Chen

## Experimental infection trials

Ref. bioRxiv preprint, not peer-reviewed, [doi.org/10.1101/2020.03.30.015347](https://doi.org/10.1101/2020.03.30.015347)

- COVID-19 replicates poorly in dogs, but efficiently in ferrets and cats
- All inoculated cats and ferrets got infected and seroconverted, but only 2 inoculated dogs became seropositive
- COVID-19 transmits in cats via respiratory droplets
- Pigs, chickens, and ducks were found not susceptible to the virus



# VETERINARY LEGISLATIVE CHANGES

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## “Essential services”

- As of now, [CT](#) has included veterinary medicine without a narrowed definition. NY and other states in the region have limited veterinary medicine to emergency only, with variable restrictions.
- [AVMA to practices in areas with COVID cases:](#)
  - Consider limited in-person patient care to acutely ill animals and/or emergencies
  - Beware that state gathering limits could apply to your clinic (waiting room more likely than staff – currently limit is 5 pple in CT)
  - Reschedule elective procedures and all nonessential appointments to limit staff and public exposure
  - Be strategic with PPE use
  - Use emergency teletriage and telehealth where possible



# VETERINARY LEGISLATIVE CHANGES

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## Telemedicine

- AVMA and [FDA](#) definitions of valid VCPR includes requirement that the veterinarian has “**recently seen**” the animal or facility in question.
- [AAVSB](#) (American Association of Veterinary State Boards) has less rigorous recommendations, leaving more room for telehealth in vet med
- Unlike other states, CT does not seem to have specific/separate language re: VCPR – refers to AVMA site guidelines
- [FDA statement regarding relaxation of VCPR/COVID](#) is very narrow – only pertains to extra label drug use and veterinary feed directive drugs.



# VETERINARY LEGISLATIVE CHANGES

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## DEA

- Certain requirements pertaining to refills, ordering, dispensing, and paper vs oral prescribing have been temporarily relaxed to minimize in-person interactions for prescribing controlled substances.
- Full details are listed [here](#).
- Policy as pertains to physicians summarized in this [decision tree](#) is effective 3/31/2020. (Telehealth comments likely do not apply to veterinarians.)



# HR

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- Families First Coronavirus Response Act
  - Extended FMLA, additional paid time off benefits
  - Document, document, document
- HIPAA, discrimination and privacy regarding medical information
- Employee status and benefits
  - Underemployment (furlough)
  - Unemployment (lay off)
  - Work sharing ([sharedworkct.com](http://sharedworkct.com), NY Dept of Labor)
  - Notify your healthcare provider!



# Financial

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- Minimizing cash burn is key
- Experts project 50% decrease receipts in GP for 12-16 weeks.
  
- Multiple options are available under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) and the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act
  - Payment Protection Program (PPP) Loans
  - Shared Work Program (10-60% decrease work)
  - Refundable Tax Credits for Paid Leave Obligations
  - Employee Retention Credit (50% reduction in receipts. Not with PPP)
  - Delay of Payment of Employer Payroll Taxes
  - Economic Injury Disaster Loans & Emergency Economic Injury Grants
  - Small Business Debt Relief Program



# Financial

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A decision tree that outlines some of the options:

<https://paycom.com/media/resources-content/COVID%20decision%20trees%20comprehensive.pdf>

## PPP

- For eligible employers, the Paycheck Protection Program could prove very attractive.
- Provides 8 weeks of loan funding for certain payroll and benefit expenses, utilities, rent and/or mortgage interest.
- If a certain employment levels are maintained, the loan may be eligible for conversion to a grant.





# Financial – Important Notes

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- Some options under FFCRA and CARES are mutually exclusive. Consult financial advisor before making any decisions.
- The Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) is expected to conclude disbursements by June 30, 2020. Don't wait to apply if interested.
- Lenders administering the PPP program are being inundated and will likely prioritize their own customers. Talk to your current bank or lender first to see if they are participating.
- Banks are warning of potential scams. Consult an attorney or CPA before making any commitments.



# Links to Financial Information Resources

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The following is a non-definitive list of resources from several different sources, selected to minimize redundancy. They are written for “typical” employers and are not a substitute for advice from a CPA or attorney.

<https://paycom.com/media/resources-content/COVID%20decision%20trees%20comprehensive.pdf> (a flowchart that guides employers through some of the available programs based on their particular circumstances)

<https://www.uschamber.com/co/small-business-coronavirus> (comprehensive overview of programs available under CARES Act and related legislation)

[https://www.uschamber.com/sites/default/files/023595\\_comm\\_corona\\_virus\\_smallbiz\\_loan\\_final.pdf](https://www.uschamber.com/sites/default/files/023595_comm_corona_virus_smallbiz_loan_final.pdf) (a guide for obtaining assistance under the Paycheck Protection Program provisions of the CARES Act)



## Links to Financial Information Resources (continued)

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<https://www.ksmcpa.com/covid-19> (overviews of various laws and regulation changes, financial considerations from a CPA's perspective, links to other resources)

<https://www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/pandemic/> (detailed information about employer benefits and obligations under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act [ FFCRA])

<http://www.ctdol.state.ct.us/> (for Connecticut veterinarians ... frequently asked questions by both employers regarding their obligations and assistance for employees who are facing prospect of reduced or no work).

<https://www.governor.ny.gov/programs/paid-sick-leave-covid-19-impacted-new-yorkers> (for New York veterinarians ... NY has enacted additional sick leave provisions that go beyond Federal law).



**HOW CAN WE  
HELP YOU?**

