

TBVME's Response to COVID-19

In the wake of the Governor's Emergency Declaration, TBVME will be waiving some continuing education requirements during the emergency and staff has moved to working remotely. For any license renewals occurring during the emergency declaration period, continuing education requirements will be waived. We understand that due to the cancellation of conferences and meetings, the requisite number of hours may be difficult to obtain and thus waiving the continuing education requirement for all license renewals for as long as the emergency declaration continues.

The statute and rule on telemedicine allow for veterinarians to provide care via telemedicine to existing patients. However, a veterinarian client patient relationship may not be established solely through telemedicine. There is no written guidance on how often a veterinarian must see an animal to maintain the valid client-patient relationship. During these times, we encourage our licensees to use their best judgment and use telemedicine where they can to meet the needs of their clients and patients.

In addition, to help prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus and based on the latest recommendations from the Department of State Health Services (DSHS), TBVME has moved to remote operations at least through March 30. This means that our offices will be closed to the public, and we will not be offering in-person scheduled or walk-in appointments.

During this time, our staff will work diligently to ensure that all operations of the agency continue uninterrupted during this period of remote operation.

We encourage our members to stay up to date on the latest news about the virus and necessary safety precautions by visiting the DSHS [website](#). The TBVME Board and executive leadership will continually assess the situation before determining when to reopen the agency to the public. We will actively update our website and social media feeds as the situation evolves.