

From: HQ <HQ@vetireland.ie>

Date: Monday 30 March 2020 at 15:38

To: HQ <HQ@vetireland.ie>

Subject: VetALERT 10i/20 - Veterinary Ireland COVID-19 Update - 30th March 2020

Veterinary Ireland COVID-19 Update - 30th March 2020

SUMMARY:

- **Essential Businesses - Veterinary Services:** Click [HERE](#)
- **VCI - Guidance to Veterinary Registrants:** Click [HERE](#)
- **Revenue - Important Customer Notice:** Click [HERE](#)
- **Veterinary Ireland COVID-19 Website -** Click [HERE](#)

Please be aware that this is a rapidly developing situation, with relevant information being updated on an ongoing basis.

Members are advised to log on to the [HSE.IE](#) and [GOV.IE](#) COVID-19 update pages on a regular basis.

Take care and God bless

Peter Bishton

Deputy Chief Executive

[Essential Businesses - Veterinary Services](#)

The Government has published its "*List of essential service providers under new public health guidelines*".

The full list and explanatory notes can be found [HERE](#).

"**Veterinary Services**" are named specifically as an essential service in the Government's List under the "**Agriculture and Fishing**" heading, as being "*involved directly or indirectly in crop and animal production and related activities*".

Also, the list of [Essential Retail Businesses](#) has been updated, and included at number 6 is "*Retail sale of essential items for the health and welfare of animals, including animal feed and medicines, animal food, pet food and animal supplies including bedding.*" Click [HERE](#).

In all cases where workers are required to attend the workplace, all essential services operating from business locations (i.e. not working from home) must ensure safe working conditions are in place and the **latest public health guidance** should be followed **at all times** - specific advice is available from [HSE.IE](#) and [HSA.IE](#)

[Guidance from Veterinary Council of Ireland \(VCI\)](#) Click [HERE](#)

As noted in [VetALERT 10h/20](#), the **Veterinary Council of Ireland (VCI)** has also issued guidance to all Registrants on the new Public Health Measures and veterinary practice: Click [HERE](#). The VCI Guidance states that Veterinary Practice is deemed an essential service, but that veterinary services should be **confined to those supporting food production**, in addition to **emergency treatment and care required in the interests of animal welfare**.

All those who are required to travel on the basis of providing an essential service must carry **one form of identification**, as well as either their **work identification** or a **letter from their employer** indicating that they are an essential employee.

The VCI document requests that all **registrants over 70 years of age** and those with **underlying health conditions** now **shield or Cocoon**, as per the direction of An Taoiseach on 27th March 2020.

Also, the VCI asks that all veterinary practices and colleagues support one another as much as possible at this difficult time, and that the health and well-being of Registrants is imperative, in the best interests of animal welfare and public health.

The VCI document concludes with guidance on Healthcare Protocols and on the Use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) in veterinary.

Cocooning for Over 70s and Extremely Medically Vulnerable

Under the new Public Health Measures, **Cocooning** has been introduced for those **over 70 years** of age and those who are **extremely medically vulnerable** to COVID-19.

TVI / ERAD Update

As part of these cocooning measures, and in addition to the guidance from the VCI, the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) has issued an instruction to veterinary management at meat plants that TVIs over 70 will not be rostered from Monday 30th March 2020 in accordance with the Government's instructions on "cocooning" for the over 70s.

Other medically compromised TVIs should also follow the Government's instructions on Cocooning.

Veterinary Ireland has repeated a call to DAFM for all TVIs to be issued with appropriate PPE, conscious that availability is tight at present and all supply is being prioritised for the HSE. Once this becomes available, we would expect it to be distributed.

Practices are also reminded to place orders with suppliers for PPE, in order to ensure delivery, once supplies become available.

In relation to the ERAD Programme, the current position of DAFM is that tests scheduled can proceed – further guidance will issue early this week.

PVPs over 70 are also required to follow the Government's instructions on Cocooning. Farmers over 70 are also to Cocoon.

REVENUE – Important Customer Notice Regarding Revenue Services

Revenue has this morning issued an important notice in relation to its operations, under the new Public Health Measures. In effect, only the Revenue's National Employer's Helpline (01-738-3638) and ROS Technical Helpline (01-738-3699) are operating – all other contact with Revenue is now through online services. Full details can be found on the Revenue Website - Click **HERE**.



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