

From: HQ <HQ@vetireland.ie>

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Subject: VetALERT 10f/20 – COVID-19 – Update 24th March 2020

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Dear Veterinary Ireland Member,

Please find below **COVID-19 Updates** which may be useful to you in keeping up to date with the current COVID-19 emergency and in keeping yourself and your family, friends and colleagues safe.

Please also log on to the **HSE.IE** and **GOV.IE** COVID-19 update pages on a regular basis – and remember to:

- ⇒ **Reduce** social interactions
- ⇒ **Keep a distance** of 2m between you and other people – Click **HERE** for Social Distancing Graphics
- ⇒ **Do not** shake hands or make close contact where possible
- ⇒ **Wash** your hands well and often to avoid contamination
- ⇒ **Cover** your mouth and nose with a tissue or sleeve when coughing or sneezing and discard used tissue
- ⇒ **Avoid** touching eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hand
- ⇒ **Clean** and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces

Take care and God bless

Peter Bishton
Deputy Chief Executive

COVID-19 Updates 24th March 2020.

(NB: Text below in **Blue** provide **direct links** to the relevant websites/documents.)

VETERINARY IRELAND MEDIA RELEASE ON COVID-19

Veterinary Ireland yesterday released a media statement on the COVID-19 emergency and veterinary practice in Ireland.

To read a copy Click **HERE**.

Quoting the Veterinary Ireland President, the Media Statement provides information on the protocols being taken by the Veterinary Profession in Ireland to protect continuity of veterinary services, as well as the health of veterinary staff and clients during the COVID-19 emergency. The Media Release also confirmed that there is no evidence that animals can contract COVID-19, although owners who are in self-isolation with COVID-19 should not let others touch their pet. The Media Release concludes with a salute to all those who are working hard on this emergency, to those on the front-line in the medical and emergency services, as well as those continuing to work to ensure products and information are in adequate supply.

VETERINARY IRELAND COVID-19 WEBPAGE

Veterinary Ireland's full set of information on COVID-19 including the Veterinary Ireland President's recent address, yesterday's Veterinary Ireland Media Release, FECAVA Posters for vets and owners, useful weblinks, and previous VetALERT COVID-19 Updates, can now be found on the Veterinary Ireland Website (**www.veterinaryireland.ie**) or by going directly to the COVID-19 webpage by clicking **HERE**.

[NEW HSE COMMUNICATIONS MATERIALS ON COVID-19](#)

An extensive range of online informational material has been produced by the HSE for, workplaces and communities to print off and display to raise awareness about preventing the spread of COVID-19. The materials, including posters on Hand and Respiratory Hygiene, Social Distancing etc., are available on the HSE Website or by clicking [HERE](#).

Specific materials on [Social Distancing](#) can be found [HERE](#).

The materials have also been translated into other languages and are available on the [Translation Page](#).

This informational material is added to and updated regularly, so please review on a daily basis.

[SFA ADVICE - €203 COVID-19 UNEMPLOYMENT PAYMENT](#)

SFA are advising all small businesses, including veterinary practices to read the details of the [Covid €203 unemployment payment scheme](#) including the employer refund mechanism through the Revenue. The Department have agreed that employers engaged with the scheme will be allowed to top up the payment by the State. The details are now being finalised and will be announced in due course.

[VCI UPDATED GUIDANCE](#)

The Veterinary Council of Ireland (VCI) have issued (Fri 20.3.20) an updated Guidance note on COVID-19 – Click [HERE](#).

The Guidance includes a set of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) and answers to try and provide a framework to assist veterinary practices with decision-making during the COVID-19 emergency, including advice on what to do in case of the closure of a veterinary practice due to COVID-19.

[COVID-19 - BEWARE OF SCAMS](#)

An Garda Síochána has warned to be aware of the potential for fraudsters to exploit the spread of Covid-19 to carry out scams, either on-line or in person, especially on-line Phishing (getting recipients to divulge personal details, including passcodes), social engineering scams (exploiting the charitable nature of people) or fraudulent selling (where sub-standard goods are sent or are not received at all).

For full details and an information sheet go to the [Gardai website](#) or click [HERE](#).

[COVID-19 – Taking care of your Mental Health](#)

During the COVID-19 Emergency, it is equally important to look after your mental health as it is your physical health. The following links provide assistance and information:

- [Veterinary Assistance Programme](#)
- [Vet Support Ireland](#)
- [yourmentalhealth.ie](#)
- <https://www2.hse.ie/wellbeing/mental-health/minding-your-mental-health-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak.html>