



VITICUS Group

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Nevada Governor's COVID-19 Medical Advisory Team Approves Expanded Scope of Practice for Veterinary Professionals to Assist in COVID-19 Pandemic

*During declared emergencies when medical workforce is needed, veterinary professionals can respond as
part of the Battle Born Medical Corps.*

LAS VEGAS, NEVADA (May 7, 2020)—On April 1, 2020, Nevada Governor Steve Sisolak signed an emergency directive that calls for licensing boards to temporarily waive certain licensing requirements and allow various medical professionals to practice during the COVID-19 crisis, should the situation call for more emergency medical care. The directive states that “a provider of medical services includes all categories of skilled personnel deemed necessary by the Governor’s COVID-19 Medical Advisory Team to augment and bolster Nevada’s healthcare workforce to the levels necessary to combat this pandemic” (Section 1, [Declaration of Emergency Directive 011](#)).

The Nevada Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners and the Governor’s COVID-19 Medical Advisory Team recently approved a proposal to include veterinary professionals in the group of emergency medical response providers. Dr. Jon Pennell, a member of the Nevada Veterinary Medical Association (NVMA), in collaboration with Dr. Leonard Cooper, wrote the proposal.

The approved proposal notes that “veterinarians and veterinary technicians have frequently demonstrated records of professional volunteerism and contribution at all levels of the community, state,

and deferral arenas. By including veterinary professionals in the Battle Born Medical Corps and permitting the profession to serve within public health departments, hospitals, and medical facilities, veterinary responders will be poised to alleviate the burden on and collaborate with interprofessional emergency response teams during this public health crisis.”

The definition of a veterinary responder is “a licensed Nevada Doctor of Veterinary Medicine or Licensed Veterinary Technician in good standing with the Nevada State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners.” These veterinary professionals are “deemed to be acting within the bounds of his or her license when providing emergency medical care, immunizations, mobile, and humanitarian care that is consistent with his/her training during a declared local, state, or national emergency.” The approved proposal also assures that “veterinary professionals who provide emergency care voluntarily and without compensation during declared disasters are provided indemnity.”

The expanded scope of practice for Nevada veterinary professionals in assisting in the COVID-19 pandemic would be as follows:

Licensed Veterinary Technician:

- Basic triage care and patient monitoring (determine initial vital signs such as temperature, heart rate, respiratory rate and quality, blood pressure, skin and mucous membrane color and condition, etc. and/or monitor quarantined or hospitalized patients)
- Immunization/vaccination

Licensed Veterinarian:

- Triage and patient monitoring (similar parameters for Licensed Veterinary Technician plus pulse oximetry and capnography)
- Immunization/vaccination
- COVID-19 testing
- Phlebotomy
- Intravenous catheter placement
- Intravenous fluid administration
- Treating emergencies, including providing hemostasis, bandaging, splinting, local anesthesia and suturing
- Airway maintenance (oral, nasal, pharyngeal and intubation)

- Drug dispensation (such as antibiotics and non-opioid analgesics)
- Syndrome surveillance (monitoring patient populations for irregular signs of illness)

About Viticus Group

As new discoveries and powerful innovations alter the world of animal and human health, Viticus Group (formerly WVC) is the leading provider of educational programming and in-depth learning opportunities for veterinary and human health professionals. The Viticus Center offers continuing education at two cutting-edge technology facilities, presenting a variety of courses and providing access to specialized surgical training for both veterinary and human health professionals. Our WVC Annual Conference serves as the veterinary profession's premier gathering for innovative education and an opportunity to engage with other industry professionals seeking growth. Bringing together life and medicine in Viticus, we envision a future where all medical professionals have access to year-round, hands-on training for a one-of-a-kind experience. For more information, please visit viticusgroup.org.