

March 21, 2020

Dear PVM Faculty, Staff and Students,

We are all working diligently to implement precautions to maintain the health and safety of our staff, faculty and students while fulfilling our obligations to deliver professional education to our DVM and Veterinary Nursing students, interns, residents and graduate students and serve the animal-owning public. Some of our students are very close to graduation, and although they unfortunately will not be able to enjoy our traditional graduation celebrations, we strive to deliver a high-quality education that will allow them to graduate on time and start their careers. To that end we will implement some additional measures to promote the safety of our PVM family.

Screening of Returning Students, Faculty and Staff

1. Individuals returning to the PVM complex from traveling will be asked to complete a questionnaire to screen for location(s) of travel, symptoms of illness, and potential for exposure to COVID-positive individuals or other ill individuals.
2. The questionnaires will be administered by the Veterinary Nursing Program for VN students, by Student Services for DVM students, and by departments for faculty and staff.
3. Concerning situations will be handled as directed by medical professionals, the CDC or local health department.
 - According to the Indiana State Department of Health, asymptomatic patients at risk for COVID-19, having direct prolonged contact with a COVID-19 patient or travel from a geographic area with community spread, should be advised to home quarantine for 14 days from the date of contact.

Social Distancing

1. No more than 10 people should be gathered in a room or area.
 - Rounds of larger services should be delivered remotely to at least part of the service team.
 - Work with PVMIT to set up WebEx or another program to conduct rounds remotely.
2. Maintain interpersonal distances of 4 to 6 feet whenever possible.
 - In rounds rooms where students congregate to work on medical records or study, please sit at least 4 feet apart or move to another location if that is not possible.
 - Before eating, wash your hands with soap and water for 20 seconds.
 - When taking food from a common plate, use tongs or paper towel.
3. Move rounds to a classroom rather than a small rounds room to allow social distancing.
 - This can be scheduled through Student Services.
4. Reduce the number of students participating in an on-site service when possible.
 - Services with more than 2 students should consider creating a schedule where one or more students may work remotely and be on call until they are needed because of patient care demands.
 - The number of students kept on-site should be based on the workspace available and patient care needs.
 - The cardiology room should be limited to no more than 5 people at one time.
 - The neurology rounds room should be limited to 4 people. Two students should be kept on site and the other student be allowed to work remotely unless needed for patient care.
 - Anesthesia may need to keep all students on-site to manage the cases of the various services.
 - Large animal medicine and surgery rotations may need to maintain all students on-site due to low student numbers in rotations.
 - ECC will need to maintain all students on-site due to the expected caseload.
 - In general, the larger services should, when possible, divide their students in half and alternate which half is on-site and which half works remotely.
 - Even when working remotely, students should participate in rounds daily and be available by phone.
 - When students are allowed to work remotely, learning expectations should be articulated clearly. For example, students may be expected to complete medical records, or prepare for rounds presentations, or work through case scenarios provided by faculty.
 - Cases will need to be transferred between students or students will need to share responsibility for cases to allow some students to work remotely.
 - Some cases may be managed without students.
 - Students can be shared across services to help areas with higher patient numbers.
5. Ambulatory services should arrange to take a second vehicle if there are more than 2 students on the rotation.
 - A van can be reserved from Transportation to allow social distancing.

- The second vehicle can be driven by a staff member or a student who has been approved to drive university vehicles.

Conserve PPE

In the Veterinary Hospital, it is common for multiple individuals to gown and glove for procedures. During this national emergency we need to conserve PPE.

1. For procedures in which students will observe only, such as referral surgical procedures and interventional urologic procedures, students should not gown and glove.
2. If possible students should observe the procedures from a live camera feed.
 - PVMIT may be able to install a camera in the operating or procedure room to allow for video streaming.
 - For scoping procedures, students may be able to view the video after the procedure.
3. Minimize the number of people in the operating/procedure room to conserve masks and other PPE.

Student Learning

1. DVM student activities should be focused on the learning objectives of the rotation and the Competency-based Veterinary Education (CBVE) Essential Professional Activities (EPAs):
 - Gather a history, perform an examination and create a prioritized differential diagnosis list
 - Develop a diagnostic plan and interpret results
 - Develop and implement a management/treatment plan
 - Recognize a patient requiring urgent or emergent care and initiate evaluation and management
 - Formulate relevant questions and retrieve evidence to advance care
 - Perform a common surgical procedure on a stable patient, including pre-operative and post-operative management
 - Perform general anesthesia and recovery of a stable patient including monitoring and support
 - Formulate recommendations for preventive healthcare
 Booklets describing each of these EPAs are available on the AAVMC website:
<https://www.aavmc.org/additional-pages/competencybasedveterinaryeducation.aspx>
2. Please facilitate students' completion of the procedures in their pink books (DVM students) or tan books (VN students). If teaching animals or donated animals are available, arrange times for groups of students to perform procedures. Please release students for these activities.
3. Students may work in a remote location when they are not actively working with patients but they must be available by phone.
4. All rotations should create a syllabus addendum briefly explaining changes to their instruction.

Modification of Specific Rotations

1. Ancillary
 - Microbiology and Clinical Pathology have been converted to an interactive online format.
 - Syllabus addendums have been created to describe the change in delivery method.
 - Clerkship in Clinical Pathology will follow a similar format, but will require some one-on-one interactions. Social distance will be maintained during these interactions.
 - Necropsy will continue to be delivered on the necropsy floor with social distancing. When there are >4 students on the rotation, students will be assigned to different shifts so that social distancing can be accomplished. A syllabus addendum to reflect these specific changes will be created.
2. Priority 4 Paws
 - Operation on the mobile unit will be discontinued because of the inability to accomplish social distancing.
 - Work will occur in junior surgery where social distancing can occur.
 - A reduced number of spays and castrations will be performed to provide the students with surgical experience but conserve PPE and work with the limited number of animals that may be available from shelters.
 - Additional online learning materials may be provided.
 - A syllabus addendum will be completed explaining the changes in the rotation.
 - Students can be allowed to help other rotations, such as ECC, when they are not treating shelter animals.
 - Cleaning staff will be arranged for the junior surgery laboratory.

Mental Health Support

Many of our students are experiencing significant stress with these disruptions that threaten the conclusion of their programs and their graduation. Please be alert to unusual anxiety and encourage students to take advantage of the services of our therapists (pvmwellbeing@purdue.edu). Feel free to contact Dr. Weisman or me.

Thank you to everyone for supporting each other during this stressful time and for working collaboratively to carry out our missions while protecting everyone's health and safety.

Sincerely,

Kathy Salisbury, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs