



# College of Veterinarians of British Columbia

March 17, 2020

## – Coronavirus Update – Resources and Supplies

Resources and supplies, such as masks, gowns and gloves (exam & surgical) are in high demand and may become scarce.

Registrants are encouraged to exercise prudent use of such items and keep informed of best approaches to help conserve supplies in unusual circumstances while continuing to protect the health of patients.

- The preservation of biosecurity, efficacy and safety should continue to be a top priority.
- In these exceptional times in particular, veterinarians are encouraged to use their education, training and professional judgment to make appropriate decisions based upon science-based evidence and the input of subject matter experts where available
  - Dr. Scott Weese has posted an article on this topic on the [Worms and Germs Blog](#) (OVC's Centre for Public Health and Zoonoses)
- Point-of-care (patient- and situation-based) assessments should be a component of every decision

Biosecurity – regardless of circumstances, the goals of *biosecurity* remain unchanged:

- to minimize cross-contamination, animal-to-animal transmission, and transmission of zoonotic pathogens between animals and humans.

Safety – when considering *safety*, attention must be given to the safety of the patient, of staff and of the public.

Efficacy – decisions regarding protocols for the care and use of equipment and supplies must consider possible effects on the *efficacy* of these items. If efficacy is compromised, biosecurity and safety will likewise be compromised.

– *Keeping informed and using your best judgement are your greatest assets* –