Dear Vermont veterinarian,

As we all deal with the impacts of the COVID 19 situation, I would like to make you aware of several updates and temporary service changes in the Vermont Agency of Agriculture’s (Agency) animal health office that impact small and large animal veterinarians. We will continue to update this information as circumstances evolve. Effective Wednesday, March 18th, the majority of Agency employees normally based at our office in Montpelier will be home-based until further notice, including our animal health office administrative support personnel and state veterinarians. Any documents, test charts, and other correspondence that you send by mail will only be collected on a weekly basis. To help us maintain our continuity of service to you, please note the following:

1. **All veterinarians**:
   1. you may continue to submit non-emergent documents to our office by USPS if that is your choice, including copies of health certificates and general correspondence.
   2. you may still use the animal health office number at (802)828-2421 to reach Stephanie Parks, administrative assistant, for all general correspondence, questions or matters of a routine nature. If you do not reach Stephanie immediately, please leave her a message, and she will return your call.
2. **Food animal veterinarians**: please scan and submit all TB test charts that document suspect CFT results to us via email at [agr.animalhealth@vermont.gov](mailto:agr.animalhealth@vermont.gov) AND contact Dr. Mehlenbacher at (802)661-8405 or me at (802)522-7326 to report suspect results. If you do not reach us immediately, leave a message, and we will return your call. Please do not fax any TB test charts that contain suspect results or other documentation needed by us to complete the follow up CCT testing. Negative TB test charts, brucellosis vaccine records and other similar documents can be submitted in the same manner you have historically used.
3. **Equine veterinarians**: this is unlikely to happen based on VT’s history, but please scan and submit all positive EIA test charts to us via email at [agr.animalhealth@vermont.gov](mailto:agr.animalhealth@vermont.gov) AND contact Dr. Mehlenbacher at (802)661-8405 or me at (802)522-7326 to report these results. If you do not reach us immediately, leave a message, and we will return your call. Please do not fax any EIA test charts that contain positive results or other documentation needed by us for immediate follow up.
4. **Large animal/equine/poultry veterinarians**:
   1. for reportable disease reporting, please utilize the following notification methods:
      1. Dr. Mehlenbacher: [shelley.mehlenbacher@vermont.gov](mailto:shelley.mehlenbacher@vermont.gov) or (802)661-8405
      2. Dr. Haas: [Kristin.haas@vermont.gov](mailto:Kristin.haas@vermont.gov) or (802)522-7326
   2. for suspect FAD reporting, please utilize the following notification methods:
      1. Dr. Mehlenbacher: [shelley.mehlenbacher@vermont.gov](mailto:shelley.mehlenbacher@vermont.gov) or (802)661-8405
      2. Dr. Haas: [Kristin.haas@vermont.gov](mailto:Kristin.haas@vermont.gov) or (802)522-7326
5. **Small animal veterinarians**: we have received inquiries from some colleagues re. rabies vaccination requirements as they relate to the April 1 dog licensing deadline. We are reviewing this issue currently and expect to have guidance out to you by the end of this week.
6. **Dairy veterinarians**: Please note the attached resource that might be of interest to your dairy clients. Apologies for some of the weird formatting and share this as you see fit.

Again, we will update this information as appropriate.

Thank you for your attention to these issues, please stay safe, and remember to implement biosecurity practices. As a profession, we are the subject matter experts on the importance of biosecurity, and I am sure everyone is getting the chance to practice regularly in the current environment!!

Sincerely,

Kristin

Kristin M. Haas, DVM

State Veterinarian; Director of Food Safety & Consumer Protection

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