



STATE OF WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

*PO Box 47890 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7890
Tel: (360) 236-4030 • 711 Washington Relay Service*

NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF A POLICY STATEMENT

Title of Policy Statement: Continuing Education Requirements During the COVID-19 Response. Policy Number: VBOG 20-01

Issuing Entity: Veterinary Board of Governors

Subject Matter: Addressing the impact COVID-19 response measures are having on veterinarians and veterinary technicians with regard to meeting continuing education requirements.

Effective Date: May 15, 2020

Contact Person: Lorelei Walker
PO Box 47852
Olympia, WA 98504-7852
360-236-4947
Lorelei.Walker@doh.wa.gov

OFFICE OF THE CODE REVISER
STATE OF WASHINGTON
FILED

DATE: May 18, 2020

TIME: 2:22 PM

WSR 20-11-048

*Department of Health
Health Systems Quality Assurance
Veterinary Board of Governors*

Policy Statement

Revised – 10/18/11

<i>Title:</i>	Continuing Education Requirements During the COVID-19 Response	<i>Number: VBOG 20-01</i>
<i>References:</i>	Chapter 18.92 RCW; RCW 43.70.280 ; Chapter 246-12 WAC; WAC 246-12-210 , 246-933-420 , 246-933-445 , 246-935-280 , and 246-935-295 ; Proclamations 20-05 , 20-14 , 20-24 , 20-25 , and 20-32 .	
<i>Contact:</i>	Loralei Walker, Program Manager	
<i>Phone:</i>	360-236-4947	
<i>Email:</i>	Loralei.Walker@doh.wa.gov	
<i>Effective Date:</i>	May 15, 2020	
<i>Supersedes:</i>	N/A	
<i>Approved By:</i>	Kirk Breuninger, VMD, MPH, DACVPM, Chair of the Washington State Veterinary Board of Governors	

To address the difficulties related to the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic that impact licensed veterinarians and licensed veterinary technicians with regard to meeting continuing education (CE) requirements in Washington State, and in accordance with WAC [246-12-210](#), the Veterinary Board of Governors (board) makes the following allowances:

1. Until December 31, 2020 unrestricted use of teaching or preprogrammed materials will be accepted in order for licensed veterinarians to meet the CE requirements in WAC [246-933-445](#).
2. Until December 31, 2020 unrestricted use of teaching or preprogrammed materials will be accepted in order for licensed veterinary technicians to meet the CE requirements in WAC [246-935-295](#).

Chapter [246-12](#) WAC regulates healthcare practitioners credentialed under the Uniform Disciplinary Act; veterinarians are health care practitioners subject to the Act. WAC [246-12-210](#) states: “A practitioner may be excused from or granted an extension of continuing education requirements due to illness or other extenuating circumstances. The profession’s regulatory entity determines when the requirements may be waived or may grant an extension.” The board is the regulatory entity with authority to make determinations about continuing education requirements for veterinarians.

WAC [246-933-420](#) requires licensed veterinarians to complete and document 30 hours of continuing education every two years. WAC [246-935-280](#) requires 20 CE hours every two years for licensed veterinary technicians.

As the spread of COVID-19 continued and the Center for Disease and Prevention (CDC) guidance encouraged the restriction of large gatherings, organizations and entities began to cancel large professional development events and conferences that included continuing education opportunities. As a result, veterinarians and veterinary technicians are without the ability or the means to meet their CE obligations for renewal of their licenses.

Washington State's response to the COVID-19 pandemic is summarized as follows:

- On February 29, 2020, the Governor issued [Proclamation 20-05](#) declaring a State of Emergency for all counties in the state of Washington.
- On March 15, 2020, the CDC issued guidance discouraging all gatherings of 50 or more. On March 16, 2020, the Governor issued [Proclamation 20-14](#) prohibiting gatherings of 50 or more in all counties in the state of Washington.
- On March 19, 2020, the Governor issued [Proclamation 20-24](#) prohibiting non-urgent medical procedures to reduce disruption and maintain the supply chain of personal protective equipment (PPE) during this outbreak.
- On March 23, 2020, the Governor issued [Proclamation 20-25 Stay Home—Stay Healthy](#) that requires people to cease leaving their homes except to conduct essential activities or for employment of essential services.

To address the difficulties related to the COVID-19 pandemic that impact licensed veterinarians and licensed veterinary technicians with regard to meeting CE requirements in Washington State, and in accordance with WAC [246-12-210](#), the board makes the following allowances:

1. Until December 31, 2020 unrestricted use of teaching or preprogrammed materials will be accepted in order for licensed veterinarians to meet the CE requirements in WAC [246-933-445](#).
2. Until December 31, 2020 unrestricted use of teaching or preprogrammed materials will be accepted in order for licensed veterinary technicians to meet the CE requirements in WAC [246-935-295](#).