

North Carolina Veterinary Medical Board

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*Regulatory
Bulletin*

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DVMs: Expanding the Covid-19 Vaccination Workforce

The PREP Act allows the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to issue a declaration that extends liability protections to entities and individuals who manufacture, distribute, or administer covered medical countermeasures against a public health threat or emergency. In March 2020, the Secretary issued a PREP Act Declaration covering COVID-19 tests, drugs, and vaccines providing liability protections to manufacturers, distributors, SLTTs, licensed healthcare professionals, and others identified by the Secretary (qualified persons) who administer COVID-19 countermeasures. The Declaration has been amended several times to expand liability protections, including prior amendments to cover licensed healthcare professionals who cross state borders and federal response teams. **On March 12, 2021**, the Acting Secretary of HHS issued the 7th Amendment to the PREP Act to extend liability protections to specified healthcare professionals who may not usually administer vaccines in their scope of practice or who have recently expired licenses, and students of specified healthcare professions who administer COVID-19 vaccines. The PREP Act also provides for a Countermeasure Injury Compensation Program for certain individuals who sustain serious injuries or die from receiving the countermeasures. Veterinarians and veterinary students will be afforded liability protections in accordance with the PREP Act and the terms of the amendment. However, specific conditions must be met in order for the authorization to administer the vaccines and the liability protections to apply. These liability protections apply from March 11, 2021, through October 1, 2024.

Sign up to administer vaccines in your community:

<https://www.phe.gov/emergency/events/COVID19/COVIDvaccinators/Pages/default.aspx>

Training and Education: [Training and Education for COVID-19 Vaccination | CDC](#)

Important for NC: *If you are interested in volunteering to administer Covid-19 vaccines in NC*

From the NC Medical Board: [Who can administer COVID-19 vaccinations? \(ncmedboard.org\)](#)

To be registered as an administrator of SARS-CoV-2 vaccines by NC DHHS you must complete training with CVMS: <https://covid19.ncdhhs.gov/vaccines/providers/covid-19-vaccine-management-system-cvms>. Once completed, you may be requested to serve in a capacity to provide or support vaccine administration.

Liability protections and requirements:

<https://www.avma.org/resources-tools/animal-health-and-welfare/covid-19/veterinarians-covid-19-vaccinators?fbclid=IwAR18y3SWJw2rsvoFPD-UkRsfLk-zxlyImvWxGuZ1M2r9D4iuKtrUmMCPua8>

and the following: <https://www.phe.gov/emergency/events/COVID19/COVIDvaccinators/Pages/PREP-Act-Immunity-from-Liability-for-COVID-19-Vaccinators.aspx>

NCPHP Impaired Veterinary Scholarship Fund

We know the veterinary profession is composed of people dedicated to easing the pain and suffering of animals. We also know that like other healthcare professions, veterinary professionals have higher than average rates of mental health and substance use disorders. These problems typically present as depression, burn out, compassion fatigue, or maladaptive use of drugs and/or alcohol). For over a decade, the North Carolina Veterinary Medical Board (NCVMB) has contracted with the North Carolina Professional Health Program (NCPHP), a non-profit 501c3 organization dedicated to intervening upon and recommending treatment for mental health and substance use disorders in NC health care providers. Through the dedication and hard work of NCVMB members, there is now a NCPHP Veterinary Scholarship Fund for Veterinarians and Registered Veterinary Technicians licensed by the North Carolina Veterinary Medical Board (NCVMB) and residing in NC.

This newly established (December 2020) NCPHP Veterinary Scholarship Fund will award a limited number of financial scholarships on an as needed basis; these scholarships are not intended to cover 100% of the cost of any recommended evaluation or treatment. All monies dedicated to the NCPHP Veterinary Scholarship Fund will come from online-contributions solicited from Veterinarians or Registered Veterinary Technicians when they renew their license. As part of NCPHP's contract with the NCVMB, the NCPHP Veterinary Scholarship Fund will be managed and distribute with oversight from the NCMVB. No fees by NCPHP will be assessed to manage this fund, and those persons that contribute to the fund will receive a letter of thanks and verification (for tax purposes) from the NCPHP for their gift.

For additional information or to contribute to the NCPHP Veterinary Scholarship Fund, please visit the NCPHP website at www.ncphp.org and click on the "Donate" link at the top of the page, or call 919-870-4480 and ask to speak to Ms. Beth Byarlay.





The Jurisdiction of Boarding Kennels in NC

The Veterinary Practice Act sets rules and regulations for the practice of veterinary medicine and the facilities in which that takes place. The boarding of animals is not considered to be the “practice of veterinary medicine”. If you own a Boarding Kennel you need to register it with the NC Department of Agriculture.

Points that help the NCVMB and the NC Dept. of Agriculture to delineate a boarding facility from a veterinary facility include but are not limited to:

1. There is a separate building where boarding occurs
2. The majority of animals in the facility are housed for boarding purposes
3. The majority of income generated is a result of the boarding of animals
4. The boarding facility operates under a separate business name
5. The practice of veterinary medicine does not occur for the majority of animals housed in the facility

Rules from the NC Department of Agriculture

§ 19A-23. Definitions.

(5c) "Boarding kennel" means a facility or establishment which regularly offers to the public the service of boarding dogs or cats or both for a fee. Such a facility or establishment may, in addition to providing shelter, food and water, offer grooming or other services for dogs and/or cats.

§ 19A-37. Application of Article.

This Article shall not apply to a place or establishment which is operated under the immediate supervision of a duly licensed veterinarian as a hospital where animals are harbored, boarded, and cared for incidental to the treatment, prevention, or alleviation of disease processes during the routine practice of the profession of veterinary medicine.

For more information regarding the registration and inspection of Boarding Kennels please refer to:
<http://www.ncagr.gov/vet/Licenses/bkennel.htm>

NCVMB Facility Inspections: Covid 19

Veterinary Facility Inspections are routinely conducted unannounced. Due to the Covid 19 pandemic the following changes are in effect until May 1st 2021:

- Inspections will be scheduled in advance
- NCVMB Inspectors will utilize PPEs for their inspections
- Inspections will strive to minimize contact with staff, maintain safe distances, and maximize safety



Important: CE Requirements for 2021!

In response to the current COVID-19 Pandemic, the NCVMB has suspended the requirement that only 10 hours of CE may be obtained via online learning. Therefore, for the years [2020 \(2021 Renewal\)](#) & [2021 \(2022 Renewal\)](#) Veterinarians and Registered Veterinary Technicians may obtain their CE completely online/virtually (both interactive and non-interactive) if necessary, to complete their requirement. It is important to remember that you are still required to complete 2 CE hours of opioid training each renewal cycle.



<https://www.facebook.com/NCVetMedicalBoard>