



  
HealthforAnimals  
global animal medicines association

# COVID-19: HOW WE ARE ACTING

**The ongoing COVID-19 outbreak is an unprecedented public health crisis creating hardships for communities everywhere — the medical challenges, the isolation, the economic pressures, the strains on everyday goods and more. Our world is in a challenging place.**

We are heartened though to see people around the globe stepping up in response. Medical personnel saving lives, farms strengthening production to keep us fed, food retailers continuing to serve customers, and everyday people working together to protect their neighbors.

This crisis requires action from all in order to protect our future. HealthforAnimals and our Members, manufacturers of veterinary medicines, diagnostics and other animal health products, are taking responsibility in the response.

This document outlines where we are acting now to support the animal health community and wider world in this difficult time. But it is only the start.

We are committed to building on this work, continuing to help those around us and working together to help with the eventual recovery. The Animal Health sector is playing its part in this fight.



**Carel du Marchie Sarvaas**  
Executive Director, HealthforAnimals







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# LIMITING THE SPREAD

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## Across our companies we are acting to protect our employees and change practices to limit the spread of COVID-19 in our communities.

All companies are **adopting or expanding telework policies** and providing employees with virtual meeting tools. Staff are also provided **regular information about social distancing, self-protection and well-being** to encourage them to be safe during this crisis.

For positions that cannot be completed remotely, such as work in manufacturing facilities, companies have strengthened practices to protect workers. These vary by company but can include:

- Staggering work schedules to limit the number of people present at any time
- Temperature checks for employees entering facilities
- Providing disinfectants and ‘sanitization stations’ at key points throughout facilities
- Increasing the number of regular, disinfecting deep cleans of facilities
- Expanding communal spaces (e.g. lunchrooms) to allow employees to distance from one another
- Limiting visits to critical service providers and implementing strict biosecurity for these providers

Companies also recognize our responsibility to customers, which is why many are restricting or halting visits to veterinary customers and offering new ways to meet via phone, video, and the web.





## HELPING THOSE IN NEED

### The Animal Health sector is built on science, research and manufacturing, and our tools and knowledge can support those on the frontlines of COVID-19:

- **Bayer Animal Health** is donating protective gear and allowing employees with medical backgrounds to take leaves of absence to support local health systems.
- **Boehringer Ingelheim** helped the China Red Cross Foundation provide protective equipment to hospitals and supports employees through donation matching to COVID-19 causes in the US.
- **Ceva Santé Animale** is donating personal protective equipment to hospitals in the vicinity of manufacturing plants, while also producing and sharing hand-sanitizer gels.
- **Elanco Animal Health** is supporting foodbanks and programs to feed schoolchildren in areas of EU, UK and US facing food insecurity and donating supplies to hospitals and first responders.
- **IDEXX** donated 30,000 masks, along with gloves, safety glasses and hand sanitizer to Chinese health authorities early in the pandemic.
- **Merck** is donating protective equipment and other supplies, enabling employees with health care backgrounds to take leave to support the COVID-19 response, and assessing internally available antiviral candidates and vaccine assets for potential to impact COVID-19.
- **Phibro Animal Health** donations are supporting healthcare worker access to protective equipment, childcare and food support for low-income families, and its facilities are now producing sanitizers for hospitals and first responders.
- **Vetoquinol** has donated over 6000 masks to hospitals and associations in their region.
- **Virbac** is working with the French National Agency for Veterinary Medicinal Products to supply anti-inflammatory and anaesthetic products to hospitals and donating masks to local medical facilities.
- **Zenoaq** has donated protective masks to those in their network and focused its safety committee on the protection of customers, employees and community against COVID-19.
- **Zoetis** is donating hand sanitizer, masks and gloves to customers to help them continue to provide essential services, while in Italy the company has organized a financial donation to the Red Cross to support relief efforts.





# SUPPORTING PETS & THE LIVESTOCK SECTOR

## Easing the Strain of Isolation

Across the world, increasing numbers of people are confined to their home. As authorities have reported – this can create anxiety, stress and fear in many people, which is why pets are often an invaluable source of comfort during this difficult time.

HealthforAnimals Members are helping animal health products remain accessible to veterinarians and pet owners around the world by **strengthening supply chains and advocating for these products to be considered ‘essential goods’** that can move across borders.

Pet owners are relying on their animals right now, and these steps will help ensure their animal can receive necessary care during this crisis.

## Strengthening our Food Supply

Farmers and veterinarians continue to show an incredible resilience in the face of this crisis. Livestock operations are working to support a global food system stressed by rapidly changing consumer needs and ensure people have milk, meat, eggs and fish in their refrigerator during the long periods they must remain indoors.

The Animal Health sector is supporting livestock producers’ efforts by working to **prevent shortages and maintain smooth distribution of veterinary medicines.** Companies are also in daily contact directly with governments and customers to address any issues before they become a problem.

**COVID-19 will remain a formidable challenge in the months ahead. HealthforAnimals Members and the Animal Health sector will continue to seek new ways to support the global response and eventual recovery.**