



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
*Olympia, Washington 98504*

**NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF A POLICY STATEMENT**

**Title of Policy Statement:** Continuing Education Requirements During the COVID-19 Response. Policy Number: VBOG 20.01.01

**Issuing Entity:** Veterinary Board of Governors

**Subject Matter:** Addressing the impact COVID-19 response measures are having on veterinarians and veterinary technicians with regards to meeting continuing education requirements. Extending the policy timeline for the duration of the COVID-19 declared state of emergency and for 90 days following the end of the emergency.

**Effective Date:** November 05, 2021

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OFFICE OF THE CODE REVISER  
STATE OF WASHINGTON  
FILED

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**WSR 21-23-074**

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

# Policy Statement

Revised – 10/18/11

<b>Title:</b>	Continuing Education Requirements During the COVID-19 Response	<b>Number:</b> VBOG 20.01.01
<b>References:</b>	Chapter <a href="#">18.92</a> RCW; RCW <a href="#">43.70.280</a> ; WAC <a href="#">246-12-210</a> , <a href="#">246-933-420</a> , <a href="#">246-933-445</a> , <a href="#">246-935-280</a> , and <a href="#">246-935-295</a> ; Proclamations <a href="#">20-05</a> , and <a href="#">20-32</a> .	
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<b>Effective Date:</b>	November 05, 2021	
<b>Supersedes:</b>	VBOG 20-01, effective May 15, 2020	
<b>Approved By:</b>	Aja Senestraro, DVM, 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. For the duration of the COVID-19 declared state of emergency issued under Proclamation 20-05, and for 90 days following the end of the emergency, 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. For the duration of the COVID-19 declared state of emergency issued under Proclamation 20-05, and for 90 days following the end of the emergency, 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 (UDA); veterinarians are health care practitioners subject to the UDA. [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.

To address the continued difficulties related to the COVID-19 pandemic that impacts licensed veterinarians and licensed veterinary technicians with regard to meeting in-person CE requirements in Washington State, and in accordance with WAC [246-12-210](#), the board is extending this policy for the duration of the COVID-19 declared state of emergency issued under Proclamation 20-05, and for 90 days following the end of the emergency.