

On March, 17, 2020, Governor Kim Reynolds issued a Proclamation of Emergency Disaster. In this Proclamation, Governor Reynolds temporarily suspended a number of regulatory provisions applicable to a variety of health care professions. The Proclamation eases administrative rules relating to the provision of telehealth or telemedicine services (**Section 9**). Although the Proclamation did not specifically list the Board of Veterinary Medicine as a regulatory entity affected by the waiver of certain telehealth or telemedicine services, in order to reduce the likelihood of further spread of Covid-19, and allow for adequate social distancing, and recognize the importance of the human-animal bond during self-isolation, the Board hereby issues this guidance relating to the suspension of enforcement of administrative rules in the areas of the use of telehealth or telemedicine in the provision of veterinary services, which directly impact the Board and 811 Iowa Administrative Code.

**811 Iowa Admin. Code 12.1 (Veterinarian/client/patient relationships).**

811 Iowa Admin. Code 12.1(2) provides that a valid veterinarian/client/patient relationship (“VCPR”) cannot be established based solely upon a telephonic or electronic communication. The Board is suspending enforcement of this prohibition for the provision of veterinary services for companion animals. However, in order to ensure the safety of food produced from animals in this State and to maintain the ability to detect an emerging disease outbreak in livestock, this suspension does not apply to the provision of veterinary services to any “livestock,” as defined in 717.1(4). The suspension set forth in this guidance document shall be effective immediately and shall continue until further notice.

Dated this 1<sup>st</sup> day of April 2020