



nantwich
farm vets



April 2020

Opening Hours

Please note we have shortened our week-day opening time to 8am – 4pm.

Easter Opening Hours

Good Friday – April 10th – CLOSED

Saturday – April 11th – 8:30am - 1:30pm

Easter Sunday – April 12th – CLOSED

Easter Monday – April 13th – CLOSED

How the world has changed in a month! I don't think anyone could have envisaged what we are going through, even a couple of weeks ago. Many of you will have seen our social media updates regarding our ongoing work and activity in light of the pandemic. We are endeavouring to keep up with and follow the guidelines in this ever-changing situation as best as we can, whilst maintaining our necessary service to the nations food suppliers! This newsletter hopefully covers where we are at the moment, but staying linked in via Facebook or Twitter is the best way of keeping up to date with any further changes that happen.

COVID-19: What does this mean for...

...any vet visits

We are all now familiar with the phrase *social distancing*. **Stand at least 2m (a cow length) away at all times.** This is something we should all be aiming to observe as much as practically possible. Safeguarding human health is the priority. As vets we are the ones travelling and potentially coming more in contact with infection and bringing it to you and your farm staff. Don't be offended if we keep taking steps away from you, or ask you to keep your distance!

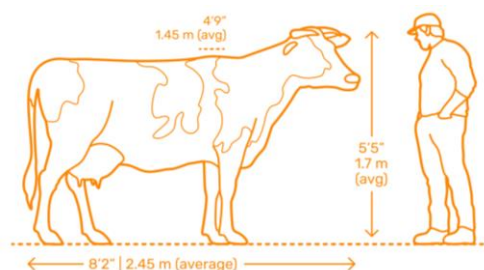
Limit face to face interaction to **one person per visit**. Often vet visits can turn into social occasions, with multiple people hanging around chatting. Please ensure all other farm staff that are not necessary for the visit (including your kids!) are not present during our visits. It's especially important that anyone in the vulnerable or high risk category are not involved in the vet visit.

Please let us know before our visit if you or anyone of your farm staff are in self-isolation with suspected symptoms of infection, or if anyone on farm is in the vulnerable category. Two vets can attend if required to keep you and us safe.

For farms we do not visit regularly, you may receive a phone call in advance to ensure all farm staff are healthy and you understand the need to adhere to social distancing. We are having to make decisions as to what calls and procedures are necessary and safe to carry out based on the risks involved – so we can give advice over the phone or carry out video consultations if it enables us to keep our distance!

...my routine fertility visits

Routine fertility visits are still a key part of farm animal food production, however the above principles still should be maintained – social distancing and one person present per visit. However, within routines, there is still the potential to





contact the APHA. There are no financial penalties or SFP reductions for delaying a test for COVID-19 related reasons. Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any concerns regarding an upcoming TB test.

All current advice from the APHA regarding TB testing can be found at the TB Hub website.

...Vet Tech work

Our Vet Techs are continuing to provide work that is essential to the food supply chain and can be carried out within the social distancing rules. 'What is essential' is a bit of a grey and subjective area, but for the time being they are carrying on disbudding and mobility scoring – though both may require some adaptation to ensure they can maintain their distance from all farm staff. They will contact you if there are any concerns about this.



...lab results

Many laboratories are running on reduced staff and prioritising tests around food safety, serious disease outbreaks and animal welfare. As such, there is likely to be an extended turnaround time on routine samples.

...farm medicines

Our medicine supply chain is still being maintained, though we are only receiving deliveries every other day rather than daily. We are maintaining a minimised support staff team in the practice and we are only open now until 4pm, so they have a lot more to do in a day! Our vet team are currently working from home as much as possible to minimise coming into contact with other staff in the practice, so the frequency of coming in to pick up drug drop offs is much reduced. Please do not expect orders to arrive on the same day, and ideally place your orders in advance of an upcoming routine.

If you plan on coming to the practice to pick up medicines, please phone the office in advance. There is then a procedure to follow that will enable you to collect your order without coming in contact with our staff themselves, or even enter the premises if necessary.

...farmer meetings:

Obviously all planned meetings such as Beef Club, Flock Club and Rearing for Returns are cancelled until further notice!

We hope you and your farm team can stay safe and healthy through this time. If you have any further concerns or questions about how COVID-19 might impact the farm, your staff or our services, don't hesitate to get in touch.

reduce visit times and even frequency as, at least in the short term, 'not seen' cows can be synchronised without initial examination, even reducing the routine to solely PDs. It's worth having the discussion with your vet as to what can be done to reduce any unnecessary contact where possible.

...my TB test

It is the current view of the APHA that TB testing continues as normal as there could be negative consequences to delaying disease control measures. TB tests, particularly of groups of young calves, is probably the most difficult situation to maintain social distancing – and often the most common situation to have multiple extra staff on farm. Please consider all options for reducing the risks here, whether through improved handling facilities, allowing extra time or completing the test over more than one day.

If the test has to be postponed, rearranged or abandoned directly due to COVID-19 (ie. because someone on the farm is in self-isolation, or someone in the vulnerable category is involved), please speak to us and

Vets Mobile Numbers

Dave Shaw	07836 335185	Amy Cox	07966 833870
Rob George	07773 384450	Sarah Williamson	07812 173942
John Manson	07813 690860	Joe Mitchell	07773 342345
John Yarwood	07814 791109	Craig Scarisbrick	07958 361378
Stuart Russell	07770 448179	Eleri James	07958 361278
Peter Duncalfe	07717 780604	Zoe Waterson	07891 843573
Laura Donovan	07800 647608	Lewis Hodgson	07972 463365
Steven Crowe	07891 843694		

Vet Tech Services

Laura Tomlinson 07889 794981

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