



UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

Veterinary Medical Centre

WESTERN COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE
VMC.USASK.CA

WCVM Veterinary Medical Centre accepting emergency referrals only

As of April 28, the Western College of Veterinary Medicine's Veterinary Medical Centre (VMC) in Saskatoon, Sask., is accepting emergency referrals only for its small animal and large animal clinical services until further notice.

The veterinary teaching hospital is limiting its services because of an outbreak of COVID-19 among staff and students who work in the facility. The Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA) confirmed the outbreak in the hospital on April 27.

The VMC takes the responsibility of providing essential and specialized veterinary care for owners and referring veterinary clinics very seriously. The health and safety of staff, students and clients are also key priorities that must be considered in decisions about clinical services.

Challenges associated with the current outbreak — particularly a shortage of trained staff — have made it impossible for the hospital to continue normal operations. The hospital's clinical team is working hard to ensure that its 24-hour emergency and critical service can continue operating. But if additional cases of COVID-19 are confirmed among staff and students, the VMC may be forced to close all of its clinical services until the outbreak is resolved.

To ensure that the VMC's emergency services can continue, please limit the number of emergency cases referred to the WCVM Veterinary Medical Centre in the coming weeks. As well, please refer only critical cases that are considered life threatening and in need of the hospital's intensive care services.

Thank you for your co-operation and your support. The WCVM Veterinary Medical Centre will continue to update Western Canada's veterinary community about any further changes to the hospital's services. Additional updates will also be posted on the VMC website (vmc.usask.ca).

If you have questions, please contact Dr. Steve Manning (stephen.manning@usask.ca; 306-966-7109).