



News Flash 11

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Key issues for the animal health industry in Europe










New question - feedback from CNA members

CNA members were asked whether farmers in their countries were allowed to vaccinate their animals? If yes: which animals and under what conditions. If no: are there discussion ongoing where farmers could be allowed to vaccinate during the COVID19 crisis.

11. In 5 countries vaccination by farmers is not allowed (BE, CZ, DE, FR, GR, PO, SK). In Spain and Germany in principle farmers are not allowed to vaccinate but it depends of the conditions of use – SPC (SP) or if the animals are treated by the issuing veterinarian (DE). In other countries farmers are allowed to vaccinate but under certain conditions: under the supervision and control of the vet (PT), if non-POM medicines (IRL), depending on the size of the herd (IT), if you are a pig farmer provided you have a contract with a vet (NL). Finally, in other countries there are no restrictions, provided the vaccine is prescribed by a vet or an SQP (UK), if the farmer followed an accreditation course (DK), or if you are a poultry farmer (NL).

To question whether there is ongoing discussion for flexible during the COVID19 crisis, 3 countries said no (B, D, PO) and one said it was a weekly discussion with authorities (NL).

11. Right for farmers to vaccinate	
Country	
	<p>Belgium</p> <p>I can inform you that vaccination of livestock by farmers is not allowed in Belgium. A modification of the legislation is not foreseen nor needed as veterinarians are deemed a strategic profession and as a result can continue to practice. Vaccination against infectious diseases is deemed a high priority activity and should be continued by vets.</p>
	<p>Czech Republic and Slovakia</p> <p>Vaccinations remains under official veterinarian responsibility in both countries (CZ/SK) meaning farmers are not allowed to vaccinate their stock. Currently, there is no discussion regarding changes in the current system ongoing in both countries.</p>
	<p>France</p> <p>Vaccination is reserved for veterinarians except in exceptional cases in the past (Bluetongue campaign).</p>
	<p>Germany</p> <p>In Germany all vaccines are POMs. The situation based on the German Animal Health Law (regulating the prevention and control of infectious animal diseases) and the subsequent ordinance (TierimpfVO Art 44) is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As a rule, animal vaccines may only be used by veterinarians. • In the case of pets, the vaccination may only be carried out by the veterinarian; the delivery of vaccines to the owners of such animals is not permitted. • Veterinarians may give vaccines under certain conditions (advice, treatment plan, at least quarterly examination of the herd, need to vaccination and fitness of the animals checked by the vet, record keeping etc.) to a professional animal owner (farmer) and only on the condition that the animals are normally treated by the issuing veterinarian. This is the case if the vet is involved in the regular herd health management. • The animal owner can then carry out the vaccination but is not allowed to give the vaccines to others. • The veterinarian in charge must notify the competent veterinary office at the first occurrence that vaccines have been given to professional animal owners. • Dispensing of a vaccine to farmers for vaccination against notifiable diseases in official state control programmes, which the exception of poultry and fish, is not allowed. Same for vaccine applied in control programmes by injection. <p>Currently there is no ongoing discussion on this matter, as the condition, although strict allow to proceed with vaccinations of farm animals.</p>
	<p>Greece</p> <p>In Greece vaccinations are administered under the supervision of the responsible vet. For the moment there isn't any relevant discussion, as the vets continue to work and to visit the farmers in any special need</p>

	<u>Hungary</u>
	<u>Ireland</u>
	Vaccinations can be administered by Farmers in Ireland. Vaccines are mostly classified as POM (requiring Veterinary Prescription to Purchase), but some are classified as LM (Licenced Merchant and not requiring Veterinary Prescription to purchase) Only products classified as VPO (Veterinary Practitioner Only) must be prescribed and administered by Vets in Ireland.
	<u>Italy</u>
	Generally, I would say yes for all food producing animals. Responsibilities of vets are: Prescription, Control and PV, Certification. Even if vaccination is considered "ars medica", in almost all SPC there is no mention of "Vet use only". It is allowed for farmers to vaccinate animals mainly based on the size of the herd. Vaccination can be performed by farmers following 'special precautions', always remaining within the context of the herd health plan decided by vets.
	<u>Nordic countries</u>
	In Denmark, animal owners and handlers (in particular in production) are allowed to administer vaccines given that they have followed an accredited (MoH) course. I believe it may be the same in SE & NO, but have yet to hear back from them.
	<u>Poland</u>
	All vaccines are POM in Poland. Farmers are not allowed to vaccinate their animals. Only Vets and Veterinary Technicians under supervision of vets are allowed to vaccinate animals, any animals. By law, all POMs (and not only injectables) need to be administered by vets. Even intramammary products. There is no discussion currently about allowing farmers to vaccinate their animals. Moreover, there is no will, nor clear need to change anything.
	<u>Portugal</u>
	Farmers are allowed to vaccinate their animals only under VMD supervision and responsibility, which can be done orally or in written (prescription, SMS, e-mail). Vaccines can only be bought with a veterinary prescription.
	<u>Spain</u>
	In Spain, all vaccines are subject to veterinary prescription. Depending on the authorised condition of use (SPC) farmers are allowed to vaccinate their animals. In general, vaccines are authorised to be used under the supervision and control of the veterinarian. Some of them have to be administered exclusively by the veterinarian.
	<u>The Netherlands</u>
	In the Netherlands poultry farmers are allowed to vaccinate their animals. Furthermore, there is a system in place for pig farmers to vaccinate their own animals. In order to do so, they must comply with various obligations and there should be an agreement in place between the veterinarian and the pig farmer specifying these obligations. The contract obliges the farmer to give the veterinarian access to administration regarding the application of the vaccines and other VMP's on the farm. The requirements set by national legislation also oblige the farmer and the veterinarian to be checked at least once a year by accreditation bodies. The veterinarian may only supply the farmer with vaccines for a maximum of 4 weeks and must visit the farm at least every month. On the other hand, the pig farmer must at least know how to apply vaccines properly and how to deal with possible complications after vaccination. All other farmers in the Netherlands are not allowed to vaccinate their own animals. With regards to the COVID19 crisis, in the Netherlands social distancing is applicable and people must keep at least 1.5 meters distance from one another. In practice, this might lead to bottlenecks as farmers sometimes help out the veterinarian during vaccination. In order to guarantee animal health and food safety and to comply with national legislation, during the COVID19 crisis, bottlenecks might arise with regards to vaccination. This might be an opportunity to broaden the possibilities for farmers to vaccinate their own animals (the subject is raised in the weekly call with Ministry of Agriculture and vets organisations).
	<u>United Kingdom</u> ¹
	Farm animal vaccines are all either POM V (majority) or POM VPS (a few). Following prescription by a vet or SQP they are administered by the farmer.

¹ **POM-V Prescription only medicine - Veterinarian.** A medicine, to be supplied only on veterinary prescription, which must be prescribed by a veterinarian to animals under his care following a clinical assessment, and which may be supplied by a veterinarian or pharmacist in accordance with the prescription.

POM-VPS Prescription-only medicine - Veterinarian, Pharmacist, Suitably Qualified Person (SQP) . A medicine for food-producing animals (including horses), to be supplied only on veterinary prescription, which must be prescribed by a veterinarian, pharmacist or SQP (either orally or in writing) and which must be supplied by one of those groups of people in accordance with the prescription.