



News Flash 9

9 March 2020 17.00

Key issues for the animal health industry in Europe Feedback from CNA members (updates to Flash # 4 & 6)

During previous Covid-19 Coordination calls National associations were asked 9 questions (Flash 4 questions 1-7 & Flash 6 questions 1-9). An additional 10th question has been raised. Below and in the following pages you'll find in a consolidated version the answers to all 10 questions **and in red** updates to questions 1-9 where the situation has changed since the previous editions.

1. Most associations have regular if not daily **contacts with their National authorities** (BE, DE, DK, FR, **GR**, IE, IT, NL, NO, PT, SP, SE, UK). In some countries however authorities are more reactive than pro-active (PO) or associations are informed but not involved (CZ, SK). One country is waiting for the authorities to be included (**GR**, HU).
2. In most countries, when the human **manufacturing sites are prioritised**, so are the animal health sites (BE, CZ, FR, **GR**, HU, IE, IT, NL, SP, SK, **PT**, UK). First sign received in the global supply chain that human manufacturing takes precedence (DE). ~~In others the associations are waiting for this status (GR, PT)~~. The question is just not relevant in other countries (DK, SE, NO) as there is no special status for any manufacturing sector (PO).
3. Where countries have created a category for "**essential goods**" **veterinary medicines** are included (BE, CZ, DK, **GR**, IT, NL, SK, SP, **PT**, UK). Agriculture and veterinary services have been officially acknowledged as relevant for the system (DE, **NO**, **SE**). In other countries such a category does not exist (FR, HU, IE). Finally, one country is waiting for a response or legislation to be adopted (**GR**, **NO**, **PT**, PO, **SE**).
4. Where **lockdown** is in force, the animal health sector is exempted (BE, CZ, FR, GR, IE, IT, SK, SP, UK). In other countries there is no lockdown (DK, HU, NL, NO, PO, PT, SE). Agriculture and veterinary services have been officially acknowledged as relevant for the system (DE).
5. **Maintaining batch release support** does not seem to be an issue in most countries (CZ, DE, DK, **FR**, GR, IE, NO, PO, PT, SK). In three countries support is being given (BE, NL, SP). In another three they are waiting for a response from their authorities (FR, HU, IT).
6. It appears most **authorities take a pragmatic and benefit/risk-based approach** when there are delays to routine compliance activities such as GMP inspections due to restrictions (B, CZ, FR, IE, NL SP, SK, UK). Other countries are not receiving any complaints from their members (DE, DK, GR, NO, PO, PT, SE). Two countries are waiting for a response from their authorities (HU, IT).
7. **Asking authorities to be allowed priority testing of COVID-19** to avoid unnecessary lockdowns of animal health manufacturing plants in case an employee is suspected: all countries answered that there was no









routine testing in place. **UK is considering routine testing for certain key workers which may include animal health but no decision as yet (UK)**. No country either has identified workers in the animal health sector as a priority sector. ~~One country is~~ Two countries are waiting for an answer to have its employees considered as “essential workers” as this status then allows for special treatment (**FR**, SP), other countries have general procedures to be followed by all employers irrespective of the company’s activity (**FR**, CZ, SK, PL) In one country for example it’s not possible to tackle this at national level as the Health system is handled on a Regional basis and every region applies its own protocol (IT).

8. All our associations maintain **close contact** and are in communication with their respective Chambers for **Veterinarians** and other Vet organisations in order to monitor the Covid-19 crisis and the implications for the vets.
9. The situations are very different from one country to another. Members have highlighted that there are two different issues to be addressed under the concept of telemedicine: **tele consultation and tele prescription**
Tele consultation: In some countries this is accepted / tolerated under certain circumstances e.g. the veterinarian has to know the animal (CZ, NL, ES, SK, SE, UK). In France a decree is in preparation in the form of an experiment until the end of 2020 (FR). In Italy is not accepted by law and vets seem not to be in favour of telemedicine (IT)
Tele prescription: In almost every country tele prescription is not allowed. Either because vets are considered as essential businesses (ES), or the ratio: geography of the country/number of vets is very big (NO), or the situation is extreme, so authorities tolerate it (IT). In UK however RCVS Council has decided that remote prescribing of POM-V medicines should be permitted where it is appropriate to do so. This position will be reviewed on an ongoing basis and in any event no later than on 30 June 2020 (UK).
10. **In most countries, veterinary state laboratories and/or private labs and/or university have been authorised to perform PCR test (BE, CZ, DE, IE, IT, SP). Two countries are still considering the option (FR, PO) and another four have not considered this option - yet (GR, Nordic, PT, UK).**

1. The animal health sector is included in all discussions and dialogues concerning measures linked to Covid-19 organized by authorities at national level (Ministry of Health – MoH, agencies etc.).

Country	
	<u>Belgium</u> This is the case
	<u>Czech Republic and Slovakia</u> CZ Animal health is mentioned during some (dedicated) discussions/dialogues in country. The activity is on Ministry of Agriculture, State Veterinary authority and National agencies. We are in contact with the Veterinary and Veterinary medicine authority – but we are not included into the discussions as an active participant. SK Similar situation is observed in the country.
	<u>France</u> Daily dialogue with the authorities.
	<u>Germany</u> Yes, to a certain extent. Proactive outreach by the authorities is limited due to right tense work situation.
	<u>Greece</u> We have informed the relevant Ministries to include us Yes we participate in the relevant discussions and communications.
	<u>Hungary</u> We are not involved yet. It is managed by the Authority and our NA (National association) who have requested involvement.
	<u>Ireland</u> Yes, we are on a regular basis
	<u>Italy</u> Regular dialogue with the authorities.
	<u>Nordic countries</u> DK Weekly TC with Danish Medicines Agency, e-mail correspondence with Food Agency SW E-mail correspondence with Swedish Medicines Product Agency NO E-mail correspondence with Norwegian Medicines Agency & Food Agency
	<u>Poland</u> We are heard when we go to them for answers – but authorities proactively do not reach out to us.
	<u>Portugal</u> Yes we are included.
	<u>Spain</u> Veterindustria maintains daily and fruitful contacts with the main Ministries and stakeholders such as the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Industry and Ministry of Agriculture. Also, with the Spanish Medicines Agency both Department of Veterinary Medicines and Department of Inspection and Control. We maintain contacts with the Chemical Federation, Human Medicines, Food and Drink Spain, Feed Association and Livestock organisations. Also, with Council of Vets and pet food Association.
	<u>The Netherlands</u> Yes we are included.
	<u>United Kingdom</u> Yes we are included.

2. Member states treat animal health medicine and vaccine manufacturing sites as they would treat human pharmaceutical manufacturing sites and therefore prioritize their ongoing operations.	
Country	
	<u>Belgium</u> The pharmaceutical industry is treated as a whole with no distinction made between human and veterinary medicines.
	<u>Czech Republic and Slovakia</u> Both countries recognize animal health medicine and vaccine manufacturing sites as important and strategic items of concern
	<u>France</u> Yes, animal health medicine and vaccine manufacturing sites are treated equally
	<u>Germany</u> No confirmation on that, but the veterinary sector has been acknowledged as "relevant for the system. Information received, that international suppliers react to increased demand on human side and thus veterinary sector is supplied in second line. This is no unexpected, though.
	<u>Greece</u> We are waiting the response of Greek government to include the vet business in the supply of protective material (gloves and masks, antiseptic solutions) – Yes, the vet manufacturing sites are treated with the same way.
	<u>Hungary</u> Yes, animal health medicine and vaccine manufacturing sites are treated equally
	<u>Ireland</u> Yes, animal health medicine and vaccine manufacturing sites are treated equally
	<u>Italy</u> Yes (see question 3)
	<u>Nordic countries</u> Not applicable in DK, NO, SE.
	<u>Poland</u> No special decree for any manufacturing to get a special status this also naturally applies to human & veterinary manufacturing sites.
	<u>Portugal</u> We are in contact with our National agency.
	<u>Spain</u> Spain has declared the state of alarm (extended until April 26). New measure to restrict the movement of people to their workplaces have been established from 30 March till 8 April (Easter). Nevertheless, people working in the so-called "essential sectors" an continue attending their workplaces; The animal health industry has been classified as an essential sector along with pet food feed, veterinary clinics, food, human pharma etc. So our activity can continue as well as the activity of our suppliers, distributors, etc...
	<u>The Netherlands</u> Until now, the Netherlands appointed vital sectors for employees that may bring their children to childcare. Food production incl. suppliers to farmers, is one of these vital sectors. Veterinarians for companion animals can do their work, taking into account the advises of the government such as keeping distance of 1,5 meters and stay home when one member of the household has fever.
	<u>United Kingdom</u> Yes, in the UK animal health medicine and vaccine manufacturing sites are treated as human pharmaceutical manufacturing sites and therefore prioritize their ongoing operations











3. Consider veterinary products as essential goods and veterinarian activities as essential services	
Country	
	Belgium This is the case.
	Czech Republic and Slovakia CZ veterinary activities hasn't been restricted. Veterinary service is ongoing. The priority is given to the veterinary products. Equal to human one. SK the same approach has been taken - veterinary activities hasn't been suspended. Veterinary medicine is prioritized.
	France The government's policy is to ask from all industry sectors to provide "minimum service to the economy" In case of excessive absenteeism, each company would decide to refocus on production or the service it considers to be a priority (therefore no list of "priority sectors3")
	Germany Building on assessment given in the Commission communication on transport. Information received that the measures currently agreed between the federal government and the Länder to reduce social contacts do not affect the care of animals in human care. Veterinary clinics and medical practices can remain open. Access control is established. Agriculture and veterinary services have been acknowledged officially to be relevant for the system. This also helped to address cases where delivery of VMPs into restricted zones in Germany was held up.
	Greece We have requested for it. We haven't received any final response until now. Yes the vet business and activities continue to be in operation as essential ones.
	Hungary Yes, vet clinics and pharmacies can normally operate as human pharmacies. Other shops (except food, gas stations) have to close at 15.00.
	Ireland We have a National decree since 24 march where veterinary medicines are specially mentioned.
	Italy <u>INDUSTRY</u> Pharmaceutical Industries, included Vet pharmaceutical, have been considered ESSENTIAL (They will continue business as usual) - Wholesalers and Retailers of pharmaceutical products, included Vet products, have been considered ESSENTIAL (They will continue business as usual) - Feed mills have been considered ESSENTIAL (They will continue business as usual) <u>SERVICES</u> Veterinarians have been considered ESSENTIAL SERVICES (They will continue business as usual) Ground transport for all the products coming from ESSENTIAL Industries have been considered ESSENTIAL SERVICES and they will continue business as usual. For ground transport lorry drivers must adopt special precautions when goods must be delivered in some areas called "RED ZONES"
	Nordic countries DK essential goods + essential services SE no decision yet on essential goods + all vets categorized as essential NO decision on VMP yet (in the works) + vets in food chain deemed essential. Companion animals probably to follow
	Poland Not yet. On April 9th The Council of Polish Veterinary Chamber has sent a letter to the Prime Minister asking to consider VMPs and veterinary services as essential. The Council has used parts of COPA-COGECA statement from document of 25.03.2020 received from us (Polprowet/AHE).
	Portugal Veterinary medicines have been included as essential goods.
	Spain This is the case. Veterinary products and veterinary activities have been considered as essential in the new rules restricting the movement of people.
	The Netherlands Yes.
	United Kingdom Veterinary medicines (not products) are specified, vets for emergency and livestock work; food production being the priority





4.	Exempt animal health manufacturing and research sites, distribution centres from lockdown requirements (Animal health companies are all of course committing to take all the necessary precautions required to address the Coronavirus threat - social distancing, hygiene, etc., whilst maintaining Exempt animal health manufacturing and research sites, distribution centres from lockdown requirements essential operations)
Country	
	<u>Belgium</u>
	The entire pharmaceutical industry (human and veterinary) is considered an essential industry
	<u>Czech Republic and Slovakia</u>
	CZ & SK - yes, animal health manufacturing and research sites, distribution centres are exempt from lockdown requirements
	<u>France</u>
	Not relevant as no lockdown requirements are announced.
	<u>Germany</u>
	Mainly relying on assessment given in the Commission communication on transport, however agricultural sector for food supply and veterinary services are acknowledged to be relevant to the system. We received an official Letter by the Depart of Veterinary Medicines and Food Safety, Ministry of Agriculture (BMEL) that confirmed that the systemic relevance, in the common opinion of the BMEL and MoH, also includes the maintenance of the production and sales processes of such veterinary medicinal products that are required for the livestock sector and for basic and emergency veterinary care for pets. That should help to address for examples situations as described under Q7. However, detailed requirements/regulations a still sovereignty of the Lander. However, on Friday, March 27, the parliament has adopted an amendment of the Infection Protection Act. In the event of a nationwide epidemic, the federal government can now issue orders that restrict, for example, cross-border passenger traffic or specify measures to determine the identity and state of health of travelers or the Federal Ministry of Health has the power to take measures by ordinance to ensure the supply of medicines, medical devices, products for disinfection and laboratory diagnostics.
	<u>Greece</u>
	Yes, we continue the operations under the instructions of the Authorities
	<u>Hungary</u>
	Not relevant as no lockdown (yet).
	<u>Ireland</u>
	We have a partial lock down – retail for consumer goods but agriculture inputs with specific mention of vet med are prioritised and remain open.
	<u>Italy</u>
	Yes, we continue the operations under the instructions of the Authorities
	<u>Nordic countries</u>
	DK, NO, SE - no lockdown in any of the three countries
	<u>Poland</u>
	There is no lockdown in our country – probably there will not be one before the 10 May elections. Should a lockdown be decided we are confident that we would obtain exemptions.
	<u>Portugal</u>
	For the moment no complaints from our Members.
	<u>Spain</u>
	This is already the case. Under the new rules, our sector can continue its activity as well as our suppliers and distributors.
	<u>The Netherlands</u>
	There is no lockdown, so manufacturing sites are still in operation. We have discussed the situation when the government would decide to install a lockdown. Under these circumstances, veterinary services and medicines are considered essential operations in line with the OIE statement.
	<u>United Kingdom</u>
	Yes, animal health manufacturing and research sites, distribution centres are exempt from lockdown requirements

5. Maintain batch release support in countries that require this, including release testing	
Country	
	<u>Belgium</u> This support is given.
	<u>Czech Republic and Slovakia</u> CZ & SK: such incidents have not been reported so far
	<u>France</u> This point is on the agenda of discussion with our Agency.
	<u>Germany</u> No contradicting information on this. The competent authorities also have a certain flexibility with regard to inspections and related certifications.
	<u>Greece</u> No real problem until now.
	<u>Hungary</u> We proposed changes due to Covid-19 to the Authority and waiting for their response.
	<u>Ireland</u> We don't have much manufacturing. For the ones in place everything is functioning normally.
	<u>Italy</u> We have already asked for clarification to our MOH. We are waiting for the answer
	<u>Nordic countries</u> DK No batch release undertaken by DKMA (MA-holder) NO No batch release undertaken by NoMA (MA-holder) SE No batch release undertaken by SMPA (MA-holder)
	<u>Poland</u> No real problem until now
	<u>Portugal</u> For the moment no complaints from our Members.
	<u>Spain</u> AEMPS – the Spanish Medicines Agency - is maintaining all procedures working for our sector, including this.
	<u>The Netherlands</u> Yes, the national competent authority is functioning.
	<u>United Kingdom</u> Believe so, has not been a point of discussion but regulator has confirmed wish to support industry as far as possible,.



6.	Take a pragmatic and benefit/risk-based approach when there are delays to routine compliance activities such as GMP inspections due to restrictions.
	Country
	<u>Belgium</u>
	This is the case
	<u>Czech Republic and Slovakia</u>
	CZ & SK - yes, our authorities are taking pragmatic approaches
	<u>France</u>
	This is the case.
	<u>Germany</u>
	The competent authorities have a certain flexibility with regard to inspections and related certifications. Right now, we do not have confirmation by practical experience.
	<u>Greece</u>
	At the moment we haven't received any complaints on it. Not a lot of manufacturing veterinary sites.
	<u>Hungary</u>
	We proposed changes due to Covid-19 to the Authority and waiting for their response.
	<u>Ireland</u>
	The authorities are taking a pragmatic approach.
	<u>Italy</u>
	We have already asked for clarification to our MOH. We are waiting for the answer.
	<u>Nordic countries</u>
	DK, NO, SE - no indications that authorities are not being flexible.
	<u>Poland</u>
	For the moment no complaints from our Members. Pharmaceutical Inspectorate confirmed their pragmatic and benefit/risk approach while evaluating routine compliance activities linked with manufacturing.
	<u>Portugal</u>
	For the moment no complaints from our Members.
	<u>Spain</u>
	This request has been communicated to AEMPS. Nevertheless, all administrative procedures have been suspended for the moment. Confirmation from some regions where follow up inspections have been postponed and the validity of GMP extended.
	<u>The Netherlands</u>
	Yes, our government acts pragmatic on compliance activities.
	<u>United Kingdom</u>
	Yes, regulator has confirmed wish to support industry as far as possible

7.	Should an employee be suspected, allow for priority testing of COVID-19 to avoid unnecessary lockdowns of manufacturing plants.
Country	
	<u>Belgium</u> For the time being there is no routine testing in place.
	<u>Czech Republic and Slovakia</u> CZ Employee is obliged to announce any change in his/her health status. There is general monitoring available. Once there is a suspicion – the tracking/history of contact is started. Respective employee must follow recommendation of the public health services – quarantine for 14 days. Moreover – there are other measures in place. SK There are recommendations how to proceed if there is a suspicion. Similar steps are to be taken.
	<u>France</u> The procedure is on the web site of the Government : click here for more information.
	<u>Germany</u> No confirmation of this yet. Sovereignty of the Lander allows for own protocol. So far federal decisions need implementation at Lander level.
	<u>Greece</u> We don't have any feedback about this for the moment. The general protection measures and instructions are followed in all the suspected or confirmed cases: quarantine of 14 days for the infected case and for the contact person(s).
	<u>Hungary</u> Has not been an issue till now, but we will take it up with the Authorities.
	<u>Ireland</u> We haven't requested this yet. Split teams are in place. Will consider this as of now.
	<u>Italy</u> It is not possible to fight for it at National level as the National Healthy system is on a Regional Basis. Every region applies its own protocol.
	<u>Nordic countries</u> DK, SW & NO: not applicable in these 3 countries
	<u>Poland</u> We don't have any feedback about this at the moment. No testing but public health procedures apply as for all other employees. The area related to diagnostics is outside the scope of competence of the Main Pharmaceutical Inspector, however this aspect will be included in the assessment of ensuring the continuity of production of medicinal products.
	<u>Portugal</u> For the moment no complaints from our Members.
	<u>Spain</u> AEMPs has delivered some recommendations for the industry, including for COVID-19 testing: "The detection of SARS-CoV-2 infection is recommended in those workers assigned to tasks considered essential". A procedure has been established in order to test those workers assigned to essential tasks in the human pharma that has been in contact with someone positive to Covid-19. We can also use this procedure as agreed with our human pharma association.
	<u>The Netherlands</u> Priority testing policy is reserved to healthcare professionals. Generally, a person should stay home when he/she has a cold or coughs. When one person of the household has fever, the whole household should stay at home. Vital sectors are exempted. Employees in these sectors should stay home when they have a fever (in consultation with the employer). Veterinary medicines for food producing animals are considered a vital sector.
	<u>United Kingdom</u> We have called for this, unknown at the moment.

8. Feedback on National association exchanges with vets and on local vet initiatives	
Country	
	Belgium n.a.
	Czech Republic and Slovakia We are in regular contact with our respective Chamber of veterinarians thanks to our longstanding relation.
	France The official body of the vet profession is in permanent contact with us. The main points are the safety of veterinary practice / versus emergency medicine and the messages to the general public (pets are safe). For more information https://www.veterinaire.fr/la-profession/boite-a-outils-covid-19.html
	Germany BfT is in exchange with the veterinary chamber and the association of the veterinary practitioners. The practitioners association together with other training providers have informed veterinarians in a webinar about questions in context of the pandemic e.g. recognition of the veterinary profession as system relevant, guidance for the daily work, federal financial support for enterprises negatively affected by the pandemic, telemedicine etc. A voluntary initiative by the German veterinary society became obligatory, at least in the State of Hesse which has released the order to notify the competent health authority about suitable respirator equipment. This does include those stationed in vet clinics. It has been agreed by the federal and Lander MoHs to increase corona test capacities across Germany through the use of veterinary diagnostic laboratories. In the first step, state laboratories are involved. Regionally, there are already inquiries for support by private vet laboratories.
	Greece The vets continue to work but day by day they realize a reduction of their income as a lot of appointments for surgical operations, vaccination etc. are cancelled or have been postponed to a later date. The Vet Association proposed and managed to include the vets in the financial aids of the government (02/04 we had the official announcement of the government that has included the vets in the relevant measures). Some local vet associations have already started to ask for prolongation of the payment terms from the vet companies. All national vet congresses have been cancelled. There are no shortages of Animal Health products until now, however there is shortage in protective equipment such as masks, hand sanitizers and gloves. Employees of Animal Health companies are working remotely and no visits to vets are performed.
	Hungary Regular follow-ups with the HU Vet Chamber. Vet clinics and pharmacies can still operate. Number of patients is decreasing due to measures and mainly taking emergency cases.
	Ireland Vets are trying to continue as normal for food producing animals - all emergency work, routine work and disease eradication work. For Companion animals Vets continue to provide necessary service. Elective service is paused. The situation for equines is less clear as they can be classified as food producing or companion.
	Italy I am in regular touch with the President of Vet Association and he updates me on how the things are going on. Small clinics are closed, ready to open for emergency. Big clinics are open. They try to postpone routine vaccination and other procedures that can be postponed. Many clinics are in touch with their clients through social media. All national and international vet congresses have been cancelled. Sadly, we have to announce that two vets passed away because of COVID-19.
	Nordic countries We are in close contact (weekly ad hoc calls) with the veterinarian associations in DK, SE, NO and are exchanging relevant information as it surfaces (on 'essential services' measures and such).
	Poland The only feedback is from the Veterinary Chamber. Leaders of Regional Vet Chambers (16 in Poland) gather information from their members on any shortages in supplies and disturbances at work. So far no complaints about VMPs shortages or problems with deliveries. There are shortages in supplies of personal protection equipment for vets visiting farms, but a bigger problem is lack of information flow between MoH and MoA about farmers being on quarantine. Vets visiting farms are not sure if they are safe and later if they do not spread a virus!

	<p><u>Portugal</u></p>
	<p>Two Scenarios: 1- Some contacts are remote. No face to face meetings with exception of particular technical support requested by vet (especially in livestock). Contacting vets by teleconferences, videoconferences and trainings by webinars (specially CA vets) 2- Just urgent consultations with pre reservation. Reduction of time schedules on pet clinics. Vet teams have different times schedules to avoid potential contaminations between them. Owners of animals are not allowed to come into installations.</p>
	<p><u>Spain</u></p>
	<p>Veterindustria maintains a close contact and communication with the Council of vets and other vets organisations in order to monitor the Covid-19 crisis and the implications for the vets. As stated above, veterinary activity has been considered essential in the new rules restricting further the movement of people to the workplaces, so vet activity can continue in the whole country (for companion and food producing animals). Vet council and the regional colleges have produced material with recommendation both to society and the vets to stop the transmission of the virus. There has been also some impact on the media about the important activity of vets in order to ensure public health, food safety, etc. in the framework of the crisis. Vets are reminding pet owners of the need to ensure that their pets receive essential treatments such as vaccinations, deworming etc... to maintain animal and public during the crisis period.</p>
	<p><u>The Netherlands</u></p>
	<p>FIDIN has a weekly call with the Ministry of Agriculture and the Vet organisations regarding the actualities that play during the COVID-19 crises. Further, there are informal contacts daily with the Vet organisations to align our policies. Most important subjects: how should a veterinarian perform its job within the 1.5 metre distance rule (e.g. use of e-health solutions). Provision of respiratory equipment for human health, availability of propofol for human health. The issue of pets infected by corona; no indication yet that pets could be contagious for humans, but it is further investigated issue.</p>
	<p><u>United Kingdom</u></p>
	<p>We have been in close contact with our national veterinary associations and the Royal College over issues such as 'essential worker' status and veterinary medicines supply. Useful guidance for vets has been produced: https://www.bva.co.uk/news-and-blog/news-article/coronavirus-disease-covid-19-updates-for-the-veterinary-profession/ https://www.rcvs.org.uk/setting-standards/advice-and-guidance/coronavirus-covid-19/ https://www.bcva.org.uk/news/bcva-covid-19-latest-guidance-farm-vets https://www.bsava.com/adviceforCOVID19</p>

9. Report on the status of tele consultations - prescriptions	
Country	
	<p>Belgium</p> <p>Technically the possibility to prescribe VMP electronically does not exist in Belgium. However, as 99% of VMP are delivered directly by veterinarians to the owner of the animals most communication is handled electronically. For deliveries to farmers a specific document (TVD – Administration and Delivery Document) is transmitted to them, for pet owners the VMP delivered are recorded in the vet’s registry of delivered VMP.</p>
	<p>Czech Republic and Slovakia</p> <p>Tele consultations are possible but not the preferred option – it is not possible however to prescribe a medicine as a result of such a consultation - the vet always has to see the animal first. However, if we’re in a situation of continuity of treatment then tele prescription is allowed. NB For food production animals and for antibiotics tele prescription is never allowed.</p>
	<p>France</p> <p>The use of teleconsultation will be tested by the veterinary profession. A decree is in preparation to give the framework in the form of an experiment until 31/12/2020</p>
	<p>Germany</p> <p>During the seminar mentioned under Q8 technical and legal information about telemedicine was given. In Germany the practical clinical examination is still a basic element also laid down in the legislation. The profession is asking to move toward the new European legislation: A prescription should only be issued by a veterinarian for the animals treated by him "after a clinical examination or another appropriate examination of the state of health of the animal or group of animals".</p>
	<p>Greece</p> <p>Tele prescription is not allowed. Two days ago the government announced the beginning of internet prescription procedure for human medicines, but for vet medicines the classical procedures are applying, as the vets and the pharmacies (human and vets) are open and continue to work. Until now, we have no electronic prescription procedure in force, so there isn’t any relevant experience or platform. We know that it’s in the plans of the Ministry of Agriculture, but the discussion hasn’t started yet.</p>
	<p>Hungary</p> <p>n.a.</p>
	<p>Ireland</p> <p>Vets are resisting this potential development for now, as they don’t want emergency measures that may become the 'new' norm. They are also trying to protect the integrity of prescribing protocol.</p>
	<p>Italy</p> <p>Even if tele prescription is not allowed by law and MoH has not sent out any note related to tele prescriptions yet, vets are doing it, mainly with companion animals. Thanks to the electronic prescriptions it is very easy to do it, electronic copy of the prescription goes at the same time to pet owner’s smartphone and to pharmacy database. In case you are not able to go to the pharmacy, medicines will be delivered at home.</p>
	<p>Nordic countries</p> <p>DK No changes yet, but the Danish vet association is in close contact with the authorities to gauge extension if conditions change SW Up to the individual veterinarian to judge whether a video- or teleconference is sufficient (official answer from regulators to vet clinic chain) NO Extended possibilities for tele prescriptions (large country with very, very few vets in the ‘outback’ so it’s almost a given)</p>
	<p>Poland</p> <p>Veterinary inspection working under MoA commented that anything what is not valid by law cannot be considered as an option even in this difficult situation.</p>
	<p>Portugal</p> <p>Some CA vets are providing tele consultation for first cares and first diagnoses. We don’t know if there is tele prescription or which selected products, no information for now. Neither tele-consultations, nor tele-prescriptions. The same attitude is shared by the National Veterinary Chamber</p>
	<p>Spain</p> <p>The Ministry of Agriculture, responsible Authority in Spain for the prescription of VMPs, has released a note stating that for both food producing animals and veterinary clinics, vets have to prescribe in situ after the clinical visit. The reason is that vet clinics and vets for food producing animals can continue their activity under the emergency status. Only in exceptional and fully justified circumstances, vets could make the diagnosis at distance, based on the knowledge of the clinical and epidemiological information, etc.</p>

	<u>The Netherlands</u>
	Tele prescriptions are possible under certain circumstances (the veterinarian has to know the animal in order to perform a proper diagnosis). No further relaxation of rules at this moment.
	<u>United Kingdom</u>
	Under normal circumstances, this is not permitted by the RCVS Code of Professional Conduct however, RCVS Council has decided that there should be a temporary departure from this position and that remote prescribing of POM-V medicines should be permitted where it is appropriate to do so. RCVS Council will review this position on an ongoing basis and in any event, no later than 30 June 2020. https://www.rcvs.org.uk/setting-standards/advice-and-guidance/coronavirus-covid-19/

10. NEW : Are veterinary labs used for PCR testing	
Country	
	<p><u>Belgium</u></p> <p>The vet section of Sciensano (formerly CODA) is performing PCR tests</p>
	<p><u>Czech Republic and Slovakia</u></p> <p>CZ : Some of officials vets labs have been authorized for performing PCR tests</p>
	<p><u>France</u></p> <p>The industry offered their vet labs for PCR test; the needs are being evaluated by the authorities.</p>
	<p><u>Germany</u></p> <p>Veterinary state laboratories have been included. Some private labs have been approached as well, but this is not yet fully in place. We do have one private lab running test, but they are accredited based on DIN EN ISO/IEC 17025:2005, same as the human labs. Some developed Real-Time RT-PCR-Detection kits for SARS-CoV-2-diagnostic and are selling them.</p>
	<p><u>Greece</u></p> <p>We do not have many vet labs with possibility of PCR tests in Greece. At the moment the relevant needs are covered by the human labs. The discussion for possible participation of vet labs in the diagnosis of Covid-19 cases has not started yet.</p>
	<p><u>Hungary</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">-</p>
	<p><u>Ireland</u></p> <p>Agricultural state Laboratories have been taken for human diagnosis.</p>
	<p><u>Italy</u></p> <p>Some of officials vets labs (called IZS) have been authorized for performing PCR tests</p>
	<p><u>Nordic countries</u></p> <p>No such option has been mentioned (mainly due to the fact, I believe, that vet labs are not that abundant in the Nordics).</p>
	<p><u>Poland</u></p> <p>In Poland, this option is being studied.</p>
	<p><u>Portugal</u></p> <p>No public or private vet labs are performing PCR tests</p>
	<p><u>Spain</u></p> <p>In Spain some companies offered that option which is being discussed with the authorities. Also many Vet labs at Universities for instance are already carrying out PCR testing for Covid-19. There has been a quick and good response from the veterinary labs in collaboration with Authorities and hospitals.</p>
	<p><u>The Netherlands</u></p> <p>Our Wageningen Bioveterinary Research (WBVR) in Lelystad performs corona testing (PCR test), see link. Capacity: up to 1500 tests per day. Wageningen University is also involved in research of possible vaccines.</p>
	<p><u>United Kingdom</u></p> <p>We are not aware of this taking place in the UK at the moment, however central government has committed to ramping up testing and is putting in place increased lab facilities. There are indications that the potential for the animal health sector to support the covid-19 response generally is starting to be investigated centrally now.</p>