

AAFSPHV

American Association of
Food Safety and Public Health Veterinarians

Weekly News Brief

Send Me Your Article, Comment, Blog Submission

We are now providing content on a weekly basis to ensure current information.



by [Donna DeBonis, Past President, Editor](#) on September 12, 2024

We had a great response to our new weekly format. In fact, not only did we receive positive comments, but also relevant submissions. Below is one such submission by Lorin Warnick.

I am having a little trouble creating hyperlinks, and I am not sure what is happening. Thus, I've written out the entire link for you to copy/paste so that you can access the information. I will continue to try to fix this.

As usual, I welcome your submissions: your job changes, available jobs, pertinent articles, etc. to me PastPresident@aafsphv.org. As always, our website now has a calendar on the HOME page. If you have any free CE, or other important calendar dates to share, please send me this information as well.

To increase the visibility and thus to help sustain our membership, please add our website and LinkTree to your email signature block. Colleagues are far more likely to join our organization as well as sustain membership, when they see colleagues' recommendations to do so. Here is an example of a simple way you can make a very significant difference (simply add the bold listed below in my signature block).

Donna DeBonis, DVM, MSFS (Interim Editor)

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Past President, American Assn of Food Safety and Public Health Veterinarians

Colleagues, join AAFSPHV membership at www.aafsphv.org

Follow us on AAFSPHV Social Media at Linktree <https://linktr.ee/AAFSPHV>

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Submission by Lorin Warnick:

The role of veterinary diagnostic laboratories during COVID-19 response in the United States

<https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0303019>

Abstract

Robust testing capacity was necessary for public health agencies to respond to severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) during the coronavirus disease 19 (COVID-19) pandemic. As the nation faced the need for robust testing capacity, it became necessary to use all possible resources. In many cases, veterinary diagnostic laboratories rose to meet this demand because these facilities routinely perform high throughput diagnostic testing of large animal populations and are typically familiar with pathogens of high pandemic concern. In this study, we evaluated the impact of veterinary diagnostic laboratories in the United States on SARS-CoV-2 testing. Results of surveys, semi-structured interviews, and analysis of publicly available information showed that veterinary diagnostic laboratories had a substantial impact on human health through population-level testing in the COVID-19 response, supporting timely and informed public health interventions. This success was not without significant hurdles, as many participating veterinary diagnostic laboratories experienced restriction in their response due to difficulties obtaining the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA) certification required to conduct human diagnostic testing. Our results point out the importance of reducing hurdles before the next major public health emergency to enhance access to testing resources overall and to ultimately improve population health.

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BLOG

**A Commentary on Honeybee Medicine
by Donna DeBonis, DVM, MSFS**

When I think of honey, I think of the first time I saw honeybees right next to jars full of honey and honeycomb. I had just been deployed in May 2010 to Kosovo as the Veterinarian at Camp Bondsteel. I was invited by the Kosovar federal veterinarians to attend what was

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billed as an agricultural festival called the “Bee Faire.” I was astonished, because coming from 25 years of clinical practice and just activated from the Army Reserve Veterinary Corps, I had no idea that honeybee agriculture was such a big part of agriculture in Kosovo. Apparently it was a government funded activity in order to increase the economy of Kosovo.

Honey became a special interest to me from that point forward. I had been in the U.S. Army less than 2 years, but had an in depth training in food safety and defense. This started my deep dive into food safety, which eventually led me to pursue a Masters in Food Safety (online) at Michigan State University Veterinary School. I took a course in Counterfeit Food, in which honey was prominently featured. Of course, back then in Kosovo, I had no idea about this issue. However, I often dwelled on that early experience at the Bee Faire, where I purchased and enjoyed huge jars of honey and comb that lasted me for quite some time. I have continued to buy honey directly from local sources in order to support honey bees in the United States.

If my story has inspired you to learn more about honeybees, the following are two resources. The first is worth some Continuing Education Credits and will go on our AAFSPHV calendar. The second is one of the National Veterinary Accreditation Program (NVAP) courses that you can take for free.

From the AVMA Axion: Honeybees 101 for veterinarians:

*Until the federal government's Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD) final rule was issued, most veterinarians in the United States had little to no reason to be concerned about apiculture (beekeeping) and honeybee medicine. Honeybees now fall into veterinarians' purview, though, because of the VFD rule and changes in FDA policy on medically important antimicrobials. That means you may be called on to treat them. Fortunately, as an AVMA member, you have access to resources to help increase your knowledge of honeybee medicine: **Honeybees: A guide for veterinarians (PDF)**. provides basic knowledge to allow you to better communicate with beekeepers and serve the needs of these unique patients. The guide includes sections on basic bee and beekeeping terminology and equipment; beehive inspection procedures (including indicators of honey bee health and disease); and relevant honey bee diseases and conditions. CE opportunity: Two CE webinars on AVMA Axion® introduce veterinarians to various aspects of beekeeping and honeybee medicine (cost \$25 each)*

<https://axon.avma.org/local/catalog/view/product.php?productid=114>

National Veterinary Accreditation Program

Module 30: The Role of Veterinarians in Honey Bee Health

Introduction

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Antimicrobial resistance is a serious threat to One Health, impacting human, animal, and environmental health. Judicious use of antimicrobials in both humans and animals is critical to slow the emergence and spread of antimicrobial resistance. As of January 1, 2017, all water-soluble, medically important antimicrobials administered to food producing animals in drinking water require a veterinary prescription, and all medically important antimicrobials administered to food producing animals through feed require a veterinary feed directive (VFD).

Honey bees (*Apis mellifera*) play a vital role in U.S. agriculture and the security of our food supply. Because hive products, such as honey, are consumed, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) classifies honey bees as food producing animals. As such, beekeepers must now obtain a VFD or prescription from a licensed veterinarian for the use of medically important antimicrobials in their bees via feed or water, respectively. The FDA requires veterinarians to issue all VFDs within the context of a valid veterinarian-client-patient-relationship (VCPR). As such, veterinarians are being asked to visit apiaries, examine hives for signs of disease, and authorize appropriate therapy.

For more go to:

<https://nvap.aphis.usda.gov/BEE/bee0001.php>

THIS WEEK'S TOP PEER REVIEWED ARTICLES

BY [MICHAEL GILSDORF, DVM, MS, BS](#)

A 'Critical Pathogen': The Rise of Drug-Resistant Fungal Diseases

A species of fungus resistant to medication poses a deadly threat to hospitals and patients.

Published August 27, 2024

By Public Health On Call

Epidemiology

Until recently, most fungal infections did not pose a significant threat to human health. Our advanced immune system and hot body temperature created an inhospitable environment for fungi, which mostly infected hospitalized patients or those taking immunosuppressive medication. But over the past 10 years, the fungus *Candida auris* has emerged independently on three continents, suggesting that it may be the first fungus to have adapted to survive hotter temperatures. And last year, scientists in Singapore identified a new variant of this fungus, which the WHO has now labeled a "critical pathogen."

For more go to: <https://publichealth.jhu.edu/2024/the-rising-threat-of-fungal-diseases>

What to Know About the Updated COVID Vaccine for Fall, Winter 2024–25

The updated COVID vaccine provides safe, effective protection against current variants for everyone 6 months and older.

Published August 25, 2024

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By Aliza Rosen

COVID vaccines are one of the best and safest ways to protect against severe illness and hospitalization. Updated COVID vaccines, also referred to as boosters, are chosen to target the variants currently circulating and are recommended for everyone 6 months of age and older. In this Q&A, Andy Pekosz, PhD, a professor in Molecular Microbiology and Immunology, discusses who the updated vaccine is recommended for, when to get yours, whether it's safe to get it alongside other seasonal vaccines. What's new about this year's updated COVID vaccines?

For more go to:

<https://publichealth.jhu.edu/2024/what-to-know-about-updated-covid-vaccines-for-2024-25>

Researchers Expand the Promise of Seawater as a Source of Hydrogen By improving the extraction of hydrogen from water through electrolysis, we can make this abundant and efficient energy carrier and industrial product easier and cheaper to produce and take fossil fuels out of the equation.

Published September 20, 2024

By Danielle Underferth

Hydrogen is a versatile chemical used for the production of many products, including fertilizers. Hydrogen is also a key component of fuel cell technology, which harnesses the electricity produced by renewable but intermittent energy sources like solar and wind. Most of the hydrogen produced worldwide derives from a process in which methane is exposed to heat and steam to yield hydrogen. But the extraction of methane, which is a fossil fuel, has an extremely large greenhouse gas potential.

For more go to:

<https://publichealth.jhu.edu/2024/researchers-expand-the-promise-of-seawater-as-a-source-of-hydrogen-0>

ASSOCIATION NEWS



by [Katherine Waters](#)

LOOKING AHEAD SAVE THE DATE for our AAFSPHV annual meeting: Oct 17, 2024 1 pm EST.

Please join us for a year in review and what the future holds. This will be a very important meeting open to all the membership, where we will announce our future plans for sustainability of our organization. Your awareness is critical

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for us to move forward as mentors to the next generations of food safety and public health veterinarians.

MEMBERS

We want to keep our organization strong and relevant. To represent the public health and food safety sectors of our profession, we need to boost our membership numbers. To continue our free RACE CE webinars and scholarship programs we need to increase our income. To keep our Allied Organization status in AVMA we need to increase our member numbers. If you know of veterinarians who would be interested in joining our organization, please send them this link: <http://aafsphv.org/membership>

REQUEST OF OUR MEMBERS

With our increase in communication via this newsletter, we are also increasing our presence on social media. We now have accounts on Tik Tok and Instagram. There are 2 very easy ways that you can help to increase our visibility and sustain our association, which in turn will benefit the veterinary community. Please, *Share* if you have accounts on LinkedIn, YouTube, FaceBook, Tik Tok, Spotify, and Instagram.

Our new Social Media Logo



Follow us on our Social Media in order to help us sustain membership in AAFSPHV. This is critical, because without your help in promoting our organization, we will not exist.

- <https://www.tiktok.com/@aafsphv>
- <https://www.instagram.com/aafsphv/>

- <https://podcasters.spotify.com/pod/show/aafsphv>
- <https://www.linkedin.com/in/american-assn-of-food-safety-and-public-health-veterinarians-87b294327/>
- <https://www.youtube.com/@AAFSPHV>

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