



UTILIZING YOUR ACADEMIC VETERINARY WELLBEING PROFESSIONALS IN YOUR COVID-19 RE-OPENING PLANS

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INTRODUCTION

In an ever-shifting landscape, institutions of higher education are in the thick of determining how to provide a supportive learning environment for the upcoming academic year, navigate its difficult constraints, while also achieving or maintaining economic viability. With increasing mental and physical health concerns and social unrest, involving your institution's wellbeing professional(s) in these decision-making discussions can prove to be even more critical for sustaining the wellbeing of our academic communities during this challenging time. [Leadership messaging around prioritizing wellbeing in veterinary medical education.](#)

could determine this to be a temporary expansion of the AVWP scope while the pandemic continues or take this on a case-by-case basis. Residents and interns may especially need more accessible supports during this time. Group support sessions or individual consultations (rather than formal counseling) could be offered to faculty and staff when Employee Assistance Programs are not able to meet the demand.

Thinking beyond mental health, your AVWP could help your institution determine an overall public health promotion strategic plan. Colleges need to invest in counseling services that an institution prioritizes wellbeing and its vital context within veterinary medical education and career longevity.
