



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, TRADE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

Division of Animal Health

March 26, 2020

Guidance for Livestock Operations during the 'Safer at Home' Order

The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) understands that there is a significant amount of concern surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic. Conditions continue to rapidly evolve, and we want to provide additional guidance and credible resources to help you through this difficult time.

DATCP is following the requirements and recommendations of the state's Department of Health Services (DHS). Beginning March 25, at the direction of Gov. Tony Evers, the DHS issued the [Safer at Home order](#). This directs all Wisconsin residents to stay at home with exceptions that include performing essential activities, essential travel and operating essential businesses. Visit the [Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation](#) for its updated list of essential businesses and operations.

Livestock activities exempted from the order as "essential" include:

- Those involved in the production of animals for food.
- Those critical to animal health and welfare.
- Those involved in livestock sales, including livestock market sales and trucking for production agriculture.

The Safer at Home order is in effect until 8 a.m. on Friday, April 24. Please avoid conducting any

nonessential business during this time. If you have questions about whether your business is essential, visit <https://wedc.org/essentialbusiness/>. The site allows you to submit a request for clarification on whether you are an essential service.

When sales are held, DATCP recommends that markets make efforts to limit attendance only to those who are required to be at the sale. Additionally, for all types of business and interactions with people, please maintain social distancing of 6 feet. Consider any work that could be done by phone, online or by mail instead of in person. [DHS offers this poster](#) that can serve as a helpful reminder for limiting the spread of diseases.

Helpful Resources

We recommend that everyone follow the [guidelines for prevention](#) (found under the "Prevention and Treatment" tab). This includes:

- Environmental cleaning, especially of frequently used spaces like doorknobs, equipment, computers, cellphones, vending machines and railings.
- Asking staff and visitors who display flu-like symptoms to stay home.
- Frequent and thorough hand washing and sanitizing.



Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection
Division of Food and Recreational Safety
2811 Agriculture Dr., P.O. Box 8911, Madison, WI 53708
<https://www.datcp.wi.gov>

- Avoid touching your face.
- Use appropriate coughing/sneezing etiquette.
- Practice social distancing.

The DHS link above offers additional information about the virus, signs and symptoms, general travel guidance, and guidance for employers. The State of Wisconsin also [created a webpage](#) that offers resources from various state agencies and answers to critical questions.

At this time, there is no evidence that animals are a risk or at risk for transmission of COVID-19. There are currently no recommendations to test animals for COVID-19.

As you are well aware, things continue to change and additional guidelines may be provided at any time.



Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection
Division of Food and Recreational Safety
2811 Agriculture Dr., P.O. Box 8911, Madison, WI 53708
<https://www.datcp.wi.gov>