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## Memorandum

Date: April 8, 2020  
To: Auctioneers  
From: Dawn B. Crim, Secretary-designee  
RE: Essential/Non-essential Businesses and Operations Guidance

Since Governor Evers issued the [Safer at Home order](#), we have received questions about whether certain businesses or practices would be considered essential or nonessential. The Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) has created [online resources](#) to help individuals and businesses understand the order and how it applies to them. They have also been fielding questions and providing answers when the online resources do not sufficiently address specific situations. We encourage all DPS customers and constituents to visit the WEDC site and to avail themselves of its information and resources.

However, since we have fielded a number of questions regarding the status of auctions during the public health emergency, we sought guidance from WEDC to share more broadly. This is what we learned:

- Auctions should occur virtually or online, to the greatest extent possible. In-person auctions must be limited to bidders only. Pick-up of goods after the auction must be staggered. All [Department of Health Services guidelines for businesses](#) must be followed at all times. Social distancing requirements must be followed between all individuals on the premise to the maximum extent possible.
- Auctions that are essential businesses or operations include:
  - Livestock market barns (i.e. Equity Co-Op livestock)
  - Herd dispersal, where a farm is selling its livestock
  - Estate auctions of farms with livestock
  - Estate auctions of farms without livestock, but only to the extent necessary to preserve the value of the farm's inventory
  - Estate auctions of non-farms, but only if an auction is necessary to preserve the value of the property
- Non-essential auctions may continue as virtual auctions or online auctions. All preparations, meetings, inventory review, and consumer preview of goods must occur virtually. After a virtual or online auction, the auctioneer or auction company may deliver or mail the goods if it can be done by one person in a room or confined space, including a car or truck. Delivery and parcel services cannot require a signature by the recipient. Other services or activities requiring more than one person may only continue via phone or virtually. Curb-side pick-up or other forms of pick-up by the winning bidder are prohibited. This is in line with the parameters of minimum basic operations that apply to all non-essential businesses or operations.
- Non-essential auctions include:
  - Agricultural equipment
  - Animal auctions for competition (e.g. show pigs)
  - Consignment sales
  - Antiques and collectibles
  - Art

- Autos and motorcycles
  - Boats and personal watercraft
  - Coins and currency
  - Collector cars and vintage equipment
  - Government surplus property and seizures
  - Heavy equipment and construction machinery
  - Household goods
  - Industrial and manufacturing equipment
  - Intellectual property
  - Jewelry
  - Off-road and recreational vehicles
  - Restaurant equipment
  - Tools
  - Trucks, trailers, and transportation related equipment
- All businesses are encouraged to follow [WEDC's best practices for a COVID-19 response plan](#).

Please also visit the [DSPS homepage](#) regularly for new and updated information and resources. The COVID-19 crisis is continuously evolving, as is our response to it. Our top priority is to protect public health and wellbeing, and our goal during the public health emergency is to maintain agency operations to the greatest extent possible while complying with all emergency orders and guidance in place to protect public health and mitigate the spread of COVID-19.