

COVID – 19 and Livestock Markets

March 27, 2020

This guidance is based on what is currently known about the transmission and severity of COVID-19 in humans. The California Department of Food and Agriculture, in consultation with the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), will update this guidance as needed and as additional information becomes available. Local environmental health and public health agencies may have additional guidance and/or requirements regarding these operations in their jurisdiction.

GUIDANCE AND BEST PRACTICES FOR LIVESTOCK MARKETS DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

As part of the Food and Agriculture essential function, livestock markets remain open and livestock may be transported to and from the markets. Additionally, employees of or those working at the markets are allowed to travel to and from the markets.

In order to minimize the spread of COVID–19 amongst people, the following best practices at livestock markets are recommended:

- Minimize people at the market to essential personnel only which includes necessary employees to operate the market, regulatory employees, veterinarians, and buyers (e.g. no additional visitors or social gatherings)
- Have consignors remain in truck as much as possible, unload livestock, and leave premises as soon as possible
- Use market staff to assist in unloading livestock
- Clean and sanitize restrooms and other high contact areas at least twice a day or more frequently for high use areas
- Follow CDC guidelines for COVID-19 when doing business at the markets:
 - Avoid shaking hands
 - Stay six feet (three paces) away from non-family members (social distancing) at all times
 - Avoid touching your face
 - Cover a cough with your elbow and sneeze into a tissue
 - Frequently wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds
 - If soap and water aren't available, use alcohol-based hand sanitizer
- Have supplies readily accessible for people to follow CDC guidelines including hand sanitizer or hand wash station, napkins/paper towels, garbage cans, etc.
- Encourage people to stay away from the market if they:
 - Are sick or showing symptoms related to COVID-19 such as:
 - Fever
 - Dry cough
 - Short of breath
 - Have been in contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19
 - Are in a high risk category including:
 - Over age 65
 - Have underlying health conditions
- Any restaurants on the market premises need to be closed for dine-in eating and may only offer food for take-out. Increase cleaning and sanitizing of tables and surfaces used by employees or patrons in the preparation or picking up of food.





BACKGROUND

Food and agriculture is identified as an essential component of the nation's critical infrastructure, as defined by the Department of Homeland Security. It is an essential part of keeping supply chains full and people nourished. The food supply is vital to protect against disruptions that would pose a serious threat to public health, safety, welfare, or to the national economy. The entities that make up the food supply are vast and must prepare for possible impacts of COVID-19 and take precautions to prevent the spread of COVID-19 as well as other infectious diseases.

Health professionals are gaining more understanding of COVID-19's epidemiology, clinical course, immunogenicity, and other factors as time progresses, and the situation is changing daily. CDPH is in the process of monitoring COVID-19, conducting testing with local and federal partners, and providing guidance and resources to prevent, detect and respond to the occurrence of COVID-19 cases in California.

CURRENT CALIFORNIA ORDERS

As of March 19, 2020, all of California is under a "Stay at Home" order which means to stay home except for essential functions. Food and Agriculture is one of the 16 Federal Essential Functions. "The supply chain must continue, and Californians must have access to such necessities as food, prescriptions, and health care. When people need to leave their homes or places of residence, whether to obtain or perform [one of the essential functions], or to otherwise facilitate authorized necessary activities, they should at all times practice social distancing." In addition, dine-in restaurants are closed, however restaurants can provide take-out service. All public events and gatherings are closed.

FOR ADDITIONAL AND UP TO DATE INFORMATION PLEASE VISIT:

- CDFA Guidance: <http://www.cdffa.ca.gov/coronavirus/>
- California Department of Public Health: <https://covid19.ca.gov/>
- CDC Guidance: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

