

## Guidance for Estate and Farm Auctions

Updated June 19, 2020

The below guidance is intended to slow the spread of coronavirus. It is strongly recommended that all Estate and Farm Auctions adhere to the following guidance.

All counties in Nebraska have been issued a Directed Health Measure (DHM) and can be accessed at <http://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/COVID-19-Directed-Health-Measures.aspx>. When planning for your event, please reference your local county DHM. Public gatherings are limited under each DHM, for locations/venues that have capacity to hold 500 or more individuals (1,000 or more in counties over 500,000 population) plans for reopening must be submitted to the local health departments and approved prior to the event (your local health department can be found at <http://dhhs.ne.gov/Documents/LHD-COVID-19-Response-List.pdf>). If a plan has been submitted previously and your location/venue is expanding capacity, the plan must be re-submitted to the local health department. Depending on the county DHM, physical distancing may not be required but is highly encouraged. Additionally, venues are encouraged to promote and encourage the use of facial coverings by patrons and staff, especially when distancing cannot be maintained.

Critically evaluate each auction to determine whether it needs to be held. If an auction can be postponed, please do so. If you decide to hold an auction, take the following protective measures:

- Use technology to host virtual sales whenever possible.
- Consider face coverings if six (6) foot separation is not able to be maintained at all times, especially for entry/exits, bathrooms.
  - Limit the number of customers at the sale to ensure everyone maintains at least a six (6) foot separation between themselves at all times.
  - Markings should be placed on the ground to ensure individuals waiting are spaced six (6) feet apart.
- Instruct any employee, seller or buyer exhibiting symptoms of illness to remain home and request that anyone who is a member of a population of heightened vulnerability to avoid areas where people are gathering.
- Provide ample opportunities for visitors and employees to wash hands with soap and water. Consider providing additional hand sanitizer throughout the venue.
- Clean and disinfect all commonly-used areas frequently including restrooms and restock often with soap, paper towels, and hand sanitizer.
- Consider closing all parts of the auction market that are not directly associated with the sale to prevent people from co-mingling, including common seating areas.
- Provide times for in-person viewing of the offerings to accommodate smaller groups.
- Concession stands are allowed to open if they meet the following:
  - Markings should be placed on the ground to ensure individuals waiting are spaced six (6) feet apart.
  - Clean and sanitize high touch surfaces regularly.
  - Staff must serve food directly to customers and remove self-serve condiment stations (e.g. provide customers with condiment packets upon request).
  - Whenever possible, practice social distancing between staff.
  - All employees directly interacting with customers should wear face coverings.
  - All food code regulations must still be followed.
  - Employees should wash hands frequently; provide hand sanitizer for customers.
- Clearly communicate and enforce your policies.