

## Livestock markets during COVID-19

### What precautions should I take to hold a sale during the COVID-19 pandemic?

We recommend you hold virtual (online or over-the-phone) sales to the best of your ability. Please note, you are still required to have an official veterinarian present to inspect all animals prior to being sold.

Consider limiting in-person auctions to only serious bidders.

For in-person auctions, whether indoors or outdoors, attendees should keep six feet apart and mask usage should be encouraged where this is not possible.

Limit people coming to your sale location as much as possible. Organize animals to be dropped off and picked up either one load at a time or instruct people lined up with trailers to wait in their vehicles until it is their turn to load or offload.

Follow CDC guidelines for preventing the spread of illness:

- Post the signs and symptoms of COVID-19: fever, cough, shortness of breath.  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/communication/factsheets.html>
- Require sick employees to stay home.
- Require haulers, sellers and buyers who are sick to stay home and ask someone who is healthy to haul.
- Clean surfaces that are frequently touched like shared equipment, computers, doors, vending machines, and any shared items.
- Emphasize covering coughs and sneezes and hand hygiene at your market.
- Instruct everyone to wash hands regularly with soap and water.
- Maintain social distancing of at least six feet.

Review this guidance from the Board and Department of Health outlining steps market managers can take during the COVID-19 pandemic:

[https://www.bah.state.mn.us/media/COVID19\\_Recommendations-for-Livestock-Markets.pdf](https://www.bah.state.mn.us/media/COVID19_Recommendations-for-Livestock-Markets.pdf)

Stay in touch with your Board of Animal Health field staff contact to keep up to date with the latest information from the Board of Animal Health.