

Guidelines for Conducting Sales Auctions

What precautions should I take to hold sales auctions during the COVID-19 pandemic?

- We recommend you hold virtual (online or over-the-phone) sales to the best of your ability.
- Consider limiting in-person auctions to only serious bidders.
- For in-person auctions, whether indoors or outdoors, identify critical functions and determine how to manage movement between employees and attendees.
- Auctions should not exceed 50% capacity of any indoor space with a limit of 250 people, and social distancing of six feet between people should be followed. Outdoor auctions should have a maximum capacity of 250 people and social distancing of six feet should be followed.
- Cloth face coverings should be strongly encouraged when coming into contact with other people; refer to [MDH's When to Wear a Mask](#). Cloth face coverings are not a substitute for maintaining social distancing of six feet between persons from different households.
- Limit people coming to your auction sale location as much as possible. Organize equipment/ products/ items for sale 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.
- Concessions and food and beverage services should not be offered. Communal sharing of food is not allowed.
- Develop a COVID-19 Preparedness Plan. Templates are available at [DEED's Guidance on Safely Reopening Minnesota's Businesses](#).

Follow CDC and MDH guidelines for preventing the spread of illness:

- Review [CDC's COVID-19 FAQs for Businesses](#) and [CDC's Guidance for Businesses and Employers](#).
- Post notices regarding COVID-19; refer to [CDC's symptoms poster](#) and [CDC's stop the spread poster](#). Additional signage is available from the [MDH COVID-19 materials website](#).
- Require sick employees to stay home. An [MDH screening checklist for employees and visitors](#) is available.
- 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 or to use hand sanitizer.
- Maintain social distancing of at least six feet between all persons who do not live in the same household.