



As you may already be aware, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security released a memo on March 19, 2020, designating Agriculture & Public Works as an Essential Critical Infrastructure as part of the Covid-19 response. In that memorandum, it clearly states that:

*“If you work in a critical infrastructure industry, as defined by the Department of Homeland Security, such as healthcare services and pharmaceutical and **food supply**, you have a special responsibility to maintain your normal work schedule.”*

The Federal Government recognizes that our nation’s food supply cannot be disrupted and is critical to public health and safety, as well as economic and national security. As part of the federal memorandum, employees engaged in critical infrastructure industries are considered critical and have a special responsibility to maintain a normal work schedule. This means you and your employees are essential for food supply to continue to operate without disruption.

In Iowa and Nebraska, we have been in communication with the governors’ offices and staffs in both states. At this time, Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds, in consultation with the Iowa Department of Homeland Security has not ordered a “shelter in place” mandate that would pre-empt the federal guidelines regarding essential services. We will continue to monitor the situation and if it does change, we will be sure to let you know. Governor Reynolds declared a State of emergency earlier this week, which shut down restaurants, bars, movie theaters and gyms. In addition, no more than 10 people may gather in a group setting and it is recommended that citizens practice social distancing habits.

In Nebraska, during our contact with the governor’s office this morning, Governor Ricketts stated he has no intention of forcing businesses to close, although that may become necessary in the future. He is working closely with mayors of major population center cities, and some have requested that bars and restaurants voluntarily go to curb side delivery only. The governor’s office is reinforcing social distancing by maintaining a six-foot buffer zone for personal space and people are asked to avoid gatherings of more than 10 people in one space. To read any of Governor Rickett’s proclamations or press conferences, [click here](#).

In both States, our Governors understand the agricultural impact on rural communities, not to mention urban areas, too. They will want to see farmers planting their crops this spring, moving forward in a healthy, safe manner.

In the event a “shelter in place” mandate is issued, we recommend that you and your employees carry the attached document in your vehicle at all times while in your personal or company vehicles. Please make sure to highlight page 6 under “Agriculture” and page 9 under “Public Works.”

For further guidance, please feel free to contact me at 515.231.7665, Will Rogers at 515.669.1648 (Iowa) or Mark Othmer at 402.430.1792 (Nebraska).

Mark Hennessey  
*Chief Executive Officer*