



March 21, 2020

Erica Bornemann  
Director, Vermont Emergency Management  
45 State Drive  
Waterbury, VT 05671

RE: Private Sector Essential Businesses and Critical Infrastructure

Dear Director Bornemann,

As you continue to respond to the challenges presented during this unprecedented time, and as a number of states and communities have implemented various curfews and restrictions, it has been difficult to get clarity on which businesses are considered essential vs non-essential. I would like to bring your attention to the [Illinois Executive Order](#) in response to COVID-19 in which Governor Pritzker identified a comprehensive list of essential businesses and operations.

This is the best definition that we have seen to-date that may be helpful for when and if the Governor and the SEOC needs to make further restrictions. Most specifically we would like to highlight the essential businesses that may be covered under the below designations:

- Grocery stores, convenience stores, farmers' markets, and other establishments engaged in the retail sale of groceries, canned food dry goods, frozen foods, fresh fruits and vegetables, pet supplies, fresh meats, fish, poultry, alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages, or any other household consumer products (such as cleaning and personal care), as well as pet supplies. This can include large and small retailers, and any other retailer of, groceries and other non-grocery products and products necessary to maintaining the safety, sanitation, and essential operation of residences;
- Retailers that supply essential businesses and operations with the support and materials necessary to operate, including computers, audio, electronics, home appliances, etc.
- Local, regional and national transportation and delivery services, including but not limited to businesses that ship or deliver groceries, food, goods or services directly to residences and mailing and shipping services, or collect waste or recyclables;
- Facilities supporting interstate delivery of goods, distribution centers, warehouse facilities and trucking and highway rest stops;
- Manufacturing companies that manufacture, distribute, and supply companies with essential products and services in and for industries such as food and beverage, pharmaceutical, technology, bio-technology, healthcare, sanitation, waste pickup and disposal, transportation, energy, petroleum and fuel, construction, national defense and communications.
- Organizations that provide access to food and services to the most vulnerable, including foodbanks, food shelves, and social services;
- Pharmacy and health care services;
- Agricultural and farm retail stores, often the only place to purchase livestock feed, and one of the few places first responders can obtain critical supplies;

- Gas stations and auto supply stores;
- Auto repair and related facilities;
- Hardware and home improvement stores;
- Restaurants and other facilities that prepare and serve food, if operating under rules for social distancing;
- Businesses that provide food, shelter, and other necessities of life for animals, including animal shelters, rescues, kennels, and adoption facilities;

We thank you for your consideration and leadership during this challenging time. We look forward to working with you and your team to best serve our communities safely and efficiently.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Erin Sigrist". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Erin" being more prominent than the last name "Sigrist".

Erin Sigrist | President  
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