

Thank you for contacting the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation to seek clarification on whether your business qualifies as an Essential Business under Governor Evers' ["Safer at Home" Order](#).

Your inquiry came to us from a form on the Essential Business Declaration page on our [website](#).

As noted in this [FAQ document](#), grooming is considered a Nonessential Operation under the Order.

Section 13.c. of the Governor's Order defines animal shelters and animal boarding as "Essential Businesses and Operations." This includes doggy daycares. Animal daycares are considered necessary to support workers who work at Essential Businesses and Operations, especially those first responders and health care providers working long hours with no one else to care for their animal. While remaining open, these businesses **must**:

- Avoid meeting in person whenever possible, and switch to virtual meetings, teleconference, and remote work (i.e. work from home);
- Comply with all [Department of Health Services guidelines for businesses](#); and
- Follow Social Distancing Requirements between all individuals on the premise to the maximum extent possible.

To the extent your business conducts both Essential and Nonessential Operations, only those identified as Essential may continue.

All businesses are encouraged to follow these [best practices for a COVID-19 response plan](#).

For the latest information on programs and resources available to Wisconsin businesses facing operational challenges resulting from COVID-19 pandemic, we invite you to visit our COVID-19 Business Resources [page](#).