



March 17, 2020

Dear Customer:

The professional pest control industry, an essential service, is responsible for the protection of public health, food and property. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture have prepared a list of significant public health pests <https://www.epa.gov/insect-repellents/list-pests-significant-public-health-importance>, many of which are controlled by the professional pest control industry. We play a vital role in protecting our nation's public health and food supply. Pests can spread diseases such as West Nile virus, Lyme disease, salmonellosis, hantavirus and encephalitis. Stinging insects force half a million people to the emergency room every year. Cockroach and rodent allergens trigger asthma attacks in children; rodents contaminate or consume about 20% of the world's food supply and bed bugs can cause allergic reactions. The importance of the pest control industry to the nation as an essential service cannot be understated.

Chicagoland Pest Service Technicians are trained in the use of personal protective equipment (PPE). We will be explaining to customers that distancing needs to be observed. No signatures from the customer will be required, our Technicians will sign the paperwork with the name given to them. The use of hand sanitizer, respirators, and a change of gloves will be done for every account. Chicagoland Pest Services stands ready to continue our fight against pests and diseases with over 19,000 other United States backed companies. With Covid-19 on the mind of all US citizens, and the world, we want to be sure we continue to serve the country in our battle with the diseases spread by pests.

As an essential service industry, as stated by **Department of Homeland Security deemed "Exterminators" as an essential service.** And given the fact that Illinois is the ONLY state in the country who's pest control system is controlled by the Illinois Department of Public Health, it has been determined, although not specifically listed on Governor Pritzker's list, as an Critical Service we will continue to service the food production facilities, grocery stores, medical institutions, multifamily housing units, warehouses, homes and businesses. We cannot afford to have our medical facilities, groceries stores or homes uninhabitable due to pests and pest related diseases, particularly as we tell citizens to stay home. There is not a segment of the food industry that could comply with federal sanitation and health regulations without an adequate pest control program.

As you consider next steps regarding emergency response and potential restrictions on business operations, we respectfully request that the pest control industry be recognized as an essential industry, providing a service that is indispensable in the effort to protect public health and our food supply.

Appended below is the language that was used in Governor Pritzker's and Illinois shelter in place order.

*For the purposes of this Executive Order,
Essential Businesses and Operations means Healthcare and Public Health Operations,*



Human Services Operations, Essential Governmental Functions, and Essential Infrastructure, and the following:

*h. **Critical trades.** Building and Construction Tradesmen and Tradeswomen, and other trades including but not limited to plumbers, electricians, exterminators, cleaning and janitorial staff for commercial and governmental properties, security staff, operating engineers, HVAC, painting, moving and relocation services, and other service providers who provide services that are necessary to maintaining the safety, sanitation, and essential operation of residences, Essential Activities, and*

Sincerely

Rick Aardema
Chicagoland Pest Services Inc.