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COVID-19 Essential Services Include Information Management, Data Destruction & ITAD

As governments around the world close non-essential businesses to stem the spread of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), they are fully aware some services are essential to ensure the communities they serve remain protected.

Based on a thorough review of the guidance from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), New York State, California, as well as sources from the United Kingdom, Italy, and South Korea, it is clear that information management, IT asset disposal and secure data destruction are included in "essential services".

For instance, the following list of essential services from New York State clearly applies in some way to secure information disposition, electronic equipment disposal, and information management.

- Trash and recycling collection, processing and disposal
- Storage for essential businesses
- Services related to financial markets
- Security
- Logistics

PROVIDING SERVICES FOR OTHER ESSENTIAL SERVICES

Returning to the guidance offered by New York State, two general categories that clearly include information management are listed, IT asset disposal and secure data destruction.

- Essential Services Necessary to Maintain the Safety, Sanitation, and Essential Operations of Residences or Other Essential Businesses
- Vendors that Provide Essential Services or Products, Including Logistics and Technology Support, Child Care, and Services

Both of the above categories classify critical ancillary services as essential, precisely because they are required by other essential businesses such healthcare, finance, communications, information technology, and security.

SECURITY IS NEVER NON-ESSENTIAL

Governments across the globe are aware and worried that organizations will lose sight of their broader legal and ethical obligations under the stresses of the outbreak. Compliance with privacy laws, data protection regulations, and records retention obligations would be put at risk if such services were unavailable. In the end, that is why those services are so clearly essential, and it is why i-SIGMA members choose to continue service at this critical time.