



Suggested Best Practices for Operating Barns in the COVID-19 Environment May 4, 2020

The horse industry, no matter the discipline, has been affected by the “Stay Safe at Home” orders through the COVID-19 situation. While innovative ideas have kept clients and students involved, everyone is ready for reconnecting with their horse again. To that end, we are suggesting the following best practices presented in phases, allowing barn owners to safely re-open and protect themselves, their staff and their clients. The goal is for each barn to develop efficient and effective safety plans which are appropriate for the facility, clients, students and staff. The health, safety and welfare of our horsemen and employees must be in the forefront of our plans.

The below are suggested guidelines that safely re-introduce clients back into the barns. As we acknowledge requirements vary from State to State, the implementation of the below guidelines must align with and not circumvent any local or state guidelines or orders. As state and federal regulations continue to change, this too is a living document and is also subject to change.

Safety of Staff

- Staff showing symptoms will not be permitted to work or enter the facility.
- Staff will practice proper social distancing between each other and clients with a requirement of using a mask when assisting the client to maintain safety.
- Staff will follow proper sanitizing best practices of hand washing and including the use of hand sanitizer.
- Facility will implement access restrictions to prevent clients from entering staff only areas.
- Daily sanitizing of common areas including restrooms, door handles, faucet handles, and any other commonly touched surfaces.

Phase 1

Situation	Guidance
Access to the training facility	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Access will be restricted to anyone showing symptoms or signs of fever. 2. Any client considered “at risk” due to age or existing medical condition is asked to contact the facility owner in advance to arrange any special requirements for visitation. 3. Restricted to one rider per session in each designated area.

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Multiple designated areas may exist and be utilized at the same facility. 5. A staff person will be responsible for checking clients in and out of the facility. 6. All sessions will be held outside, weather and safety permitting. 7. All clients must always wear a mask except when riding or driving.
Arriving at the facility	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Schedule at least a 15-minute gap between exercise sessions to avoid client overlap within the facility. 2. Clients must stay in their vehicle if arriving early until trainer, instructor or staff clears space for entry.
Social distancing and protection during session	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Only instructor, client or appropriate staff member are allowed in arena or workspace during the session to maintain safety. 2. One parent/guardian or spectator allowed in the arena or designated area. 3. Staff can help with mounting and dismounting for safety purposes, but all present must wear a mask. 4. Rider/driver does not have to wear a mask during exercising the horse. 5. Rider/driver must wear gloves during the session. 6. Student and instructor will maintain recommended social distancing during the session. 7. Outdoor workspace may be observed by spectators, but proper social distancing must be maintained. Examples: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Designated viewing area to ensure social distancing. b. Viewing from vehicles.
Availability of hand sanitizer	Hand sanitizer should be available and used at the time of entrance and exit of the facility.
Use of restrooms	<p>Use of restrooms is allowed if proper sanitation cleaning procedures are followed after every use.</p> <p>Client and or spectator is to ask permission prior to use and staff must properly sanitize after use.</p>
Use of videos or pictures	No content shall be posted on social media.

Tack or other stable equipment	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Client shall not assist with tacking or untacking of the horse. 2. All tack will be properly cleaned following each session.
General socializing	Discourage “hanging around” after the session. It is especially important to have the previous client exit the area prior to the next client entering. Remind them that social time WILL return when it is safe for everyone.
Visiting with their horse	Horse owners may not visit with their horse in the stall to protect caretakers and other staff.

Phase 2

Based on state Order and associated relaxing of restrictions, the facility ownership will reassess and allow for moving to implementing Phase 2 guidelines. All other guidelines and best practices outlined in Phase 1 must be adhered to during Phase 2.

Situation	Guidance
Lesson program	Small group lessons will resume.
Visiting with their horse	<p>Horse owners may visit with their horse in the stall under the following conditions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Proper social distancing is always maintained including travel to and from the horse stall. 2. Client does not participate in grooming activities or utilizing any equipment used in the stall. 3. Client will provide and use a mask while visiting with their horse.

Phase 3

Based on state Order and associated relaxing of restrictions, the facility ownership will reassess and allow for moving to implementing Phase 3 guidelines. All other guidelines and best practices outlined in Phase 1 and 2 must be adhered to during Phase 3.

Situation	Guidance
Lesson program	Larger group lessons will resume.
Facility access	Clients will be allowed eased access into designated areas of the facility.
Interacting with client's horse	Clients will be allowed to work with their horse including grooming, tacking and cooling out.

New Normal

Following Phase 3, and as we move forward, we will go back to our routine of a more social environment in our day to day operations. We will continue to heed the precautions that will be necessary to maintain the health of ourselves, staff, and clients.

Rider COVID-19 Screening Questionnaire and Waiver

1. To the best of your knowledge, have you had close contact with someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 infection within the last 14 days?

No: _____ Yes (Please Explain): _____

2. Are you currently experiencing, or have you had any of these symptoms in the last 14 days?

Fever greater than 99.1F/Difficulty breathing/Persistent cough/Sore throat/General aches or headaches

No: _____ Yes (Please Explain): _____

3. Is anyone in your immediate family/household currently experiencing, or have you had any of these symptoms in the last 14 days?

Fever greater than 99.1F/Difficulty breathing/Persistent cough/Sore throat/General aches or headaches

No: _____ Yes (Please Explain): _____

I understand that while I am on the premises of _____, I am required to follow the guidelines that have been provided to me, including, but not limited to: wearing a nose and mouth covering mask; wearing riding gloves; following sanitizing protocol as set forth by the stables, state, and CDC; practicing social distancing as outlined by the Stables, state, and CDC. Any violation of these guidelines may result in me being restricted from the property of _____.

Client initials: _____

Parent/Guardian of minor initials: _____

Screening forms for riders will be kept in an on-site secure, confidential area for the duration of the adherence to COVID-19 protocols and will only be viewed by _____. **Each barn should fill this out with specific names. Minimal people should be filling this form out with client due to HIPPA regulations.** The screening forms will be securely destroyed when _____ terminates adhering to any COVID-19 protocol. Individuals can choose not to complete this form. Anyone who chooses not to complete the form will be declined entry into _____, and denied participation in any activity on the property.

I hereby waive any liability of _____, its owners, agents, contractors, or employees in the event that I develop symptoms of, or receive a diagnosis of, COVID-19. I understand that I am entering the facilities of FARM NAME, located at FARM ADDRESS, at my own risk.

I attest that all my responses are correct to the best of my knowledge. If it is determined that I have answered any of the above questions untruthfully I understand that I may be restricted from the property of _____.

Print Name: _____

Sign Name: _____

Date: _____

Parent or Guardian if under 18 years of age

Print name of client if under 18 years of age: _____

In accordance with _____ public health orders and guidance, _____
_____ has followed recommendations to protect its employees and clients from Covid-19 and
expects that clients who exercise their horses at _____ have also complied with all
public health orders and guidance in order to minimize the risks associated with Covid-19.

I _____, have reviewed and agree to abide by the above the requirements.

Signature _____