



Equestrian Event Resources During COVID 19

*This guidance is based on what is currently known about the transmission and severity of COVID-19. The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), in consultation with the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), will update this guidance as needed and as additional information becomes available. Local environmental health and public health agencies may have additional guidance and/or requirements regarding these operations in their jurisdiction. **You must check with local public health agencies for specific recommendations.***

Best Practices Guidelines for Equestrian Event Facilities

- Equestrian event facilities and management must take precautions to prevent the spread of COVID-19. It is necessary to act in a manner that incorporates Governor Newsom's Executive Orders to prevent the spread of the coronavirus and protect California families and communities. In addition, employers should follow all applicable Cal/OSHA regulations and guidances on protecting workers from COVID-19 (<https://www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/coronavirus/General-Industry.html>). To those ends, the CDFA recommends the following:

Equine Event Grounds Access

- Access for competitors, trainers, equine caretakers, facility caretakers, equine health professionals (veterinarians, farriers, acupuncturists, etc.), medical professionals (EMTs), and essential event management should be prioritized when local public health authorities limit number of persons allowed in a given venue. Events should provide entry credentials in advance of the event and have a list of authorized individuals associated with each entry.
- Limit number of entry points to the facility, with separate entry and exit if possible, using two different doors.
- Active symptom screening and temperature checks are strongly recommended at all entry points. Make sure the temperature/symptom screener avoids close contact with entrants to the extent possible. Both screeners and potential entrants should wear face coverings during screening.
- Do not allow access to the facility to anyone with an elevated temperature or who shows symptoms of COVID-19 or who has been exposed to a person with symptoms of COVID-19 (cough, shortness of breath, or fever). View the CDC's COVID-19 symptoms at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>.
- All individuals must have a temperature screen upon entry to the event grounds **each day**, or must attest to taking temperature prior to entry to the event grounds **each day**.
- Require all individuals entering the grounds to wear cloth face coverings at all times except when eating or drinking or for competitors when mounted during his or her registered individual event. Failure to do so shall result in immediate





removal from the premises for the duration of the event. For the limited periods when face coverings are removed, 6 feet of physical distancing between individuals should be maintained.

- Require individuals entering to read and acknowledge COVID-19 biosecurity measures being implemented. Acknowledgement shall be signed electronically prior to entry.
- Event managers should develop an electronic sign-up document for all individuals wishing event ground access. Sign-up should limit number of personnel in any one barn to a maximum of 10 at any one time. Records shall be maintained for two weeks post event and provided to state or county health officials upon request.

General Venue Management

- Post signage at all entrances to an event grounds stating anyone who exhibits COVID-19 symptoms or has been in contact with an individual who has tested positive for COVID-19 or has suspected COVID-19 within the last two weeks cannot enter the venue.
- Post signage throughout the venue including recommendations about good hygiene, ways to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission, as well as what to do and who to contact if someone suspects they have COVID-19 symptoms.
- Implement and enforce a policy of **physical distancing** in all communal spaces, which is here defined as “maintaining 6 feet of separation between individuals not from the same family/housing unit to the extent possible.”
- Prohibit congregating of individuals on the event grounds.
- Restrict individuals to their designated stabling area or competition area or work area.
- Eliminate all communal seating such as cafés, cafeterias, picnic tables or benches unless 6 feet of distancing between individuals from different family/housing units can be effectively delineated and maintained. If physical distancing cannot be maintained, communal seating shall not be made available for the duration of the event.
- If spectator seating is made available, seats or benches must be arranged and/or clearly marked with 6 feet of distancing between individuals from different family/housing units. If physical distancing cannot be maintained, spectator seating shall not be made available for the duration of the event.

Equine Event Management

- Provide electronic access to all event documents including but not limited to, event entry, event cancellation, event changes, and all payments.
- When possible, eliminate the use of paper-based systems and utilize electronic based systems to reduce amount of contact.
- Develop an entry packet system that can limit personnel contact such as a tent outside with containers labeled by last name. One person should be designated





to oversee and ensure physical distancing. One person from each barn should be designated to pick up the entry packet.

- Restrict access to the show office to appointment only.
- Utilize plexiglass or other shields to separate show management personnel and competition personnel.
- All individuals must stay 6 feet apart while in event show office.
- Utilize technology to ensure physical distancing of persons for all event activities, including but not limited to, ring master announcements, scoring by scribes, and distribution of awards.
- Require use of handwashing stations or hand sanitizer for all entering and leaving the premises.

Vendors on the Event Grounds

- Allow display of products on venue grounds but limit handling of merchandise prior to sale.
- Encourage merchants to develop electronic ordering and pick up of merchandise.
- Restrict purchases to credit card only to avoid the exchange of cash.
- Discourage communal gathering and “shopping” at each vendor booth.
- Ensure physical distancing is maintained within the vendor area at all times.

Show Ring Management

- During competition, horse and rider/drivers shall maintain physical distancing from other riders/drivers at all times.
- Judges, scribes, and ring crew shall maintain physical distancing from all individuals in the arena.
- Bit and horse inspections shall be modified to ensure physical distancing when possible.
- When possible, ring scoring shall be captured and transferred electronically to show management.
- Individuals distributing awards or performing inspection shall wear disposable gloves which are changed between classes or rounds of competition.
- Trainers or owners observing competition must adhere to physical distancing at all times.
- If bleachers or observation seating is made available, management must make arrangements to ensure seating is clearly delineated with 6 feet of space between individuals from separate family/housing units, and cleaned and disinfected after each individual use. If such arrangements are not able to be implemented such seating shall not be utilized for the duration of the event.

Warm Up Area Management

- Number of horse and rider/driver combinations allowed entrance should be limited to ensure physical distancing is maintained.





- A designated show official shall be monitoring the area to ensure physical distancing is maintained.
- Trainers or owners observing the warm up must adhere to physical distancing at all times.
- For larger events or events with limited area to warm up, electronic sign-up for use of warm up arena may be necessary.

Equine Event Stabling Access

- All individuals must stay 6 feet apart and must not congregate.
- Require use of handwashing stations or hand sanitizer for all persons entering and leaving the premises.
- Horses and associated individuals shall remain in the designated stabling area.

Facility Biosecurity Measures

- Individuals should touch only the equipment and supplies necessary for completing the tasks of caring for and exercising the specific horse(s).
- Prohibit the shared use of helmets, grooming supplies, tack and other equipment between individuals. Any equipment that must be shared should be cleaned and disinfected before and after use.
- Keep individual animal waterers and feed bunks in a fixed position within the stall to ensure feed or water can be provided without touching these items or removing them.
- When handling shared facilities such as trash receptacle lids, hoses, etc., use good biosecurity practices such as gloves, paper towels, hand-washing or other methods, as appropriate, to avoid transmission.
- Disinfect gate latches, stall door handles, light switches, feed scoops, hose ends, spray nozzles, cross tie snaps, pitchforks, wheelbarrows, and other frequently handled surfaces regularly after contact with personnel.
- Clean communal leather tack daily with tack cleaner.
- Limit horse to horse contact.
- Limit the number of individuals handling each individual horse.
- Avoid use of communal water and communal water hoses.

Cleaning and Disinfection Measures to Prevent COVID-19 Transmission

- The virus can persist on non-porous materials (leather bridles/saddles/halters, nylon halters/lead ropes, gate latches, door handles, spray nozzles) longer than porous materials (cotton lead ropes, saddle pads).
 - According to the CDC the coronavirus can survive in the air up to 3 hours, on copper up to 4 hours, on cardboard up to 24 hours, and on stainless steel and plastic up to 72 hours.
- The CDC disinfection guidelines for COVID-19 are here:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/cleaning-disinfection.html>





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- A list of approved disinfectants for hard, nonporous surfaces (not to be used on leather) is found here: <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2>

Although there is no evidence that horses can contract or become ill from COVID-19, practice good hygiene by washing your hands with soap and water for a minimum of 20 seconds or, if soap and water are not readily available, using a >60% based hand sanitizer after touching a horse, communal areas, or communal equipment to prevent environmental spread of the virus. Hand sanitizer should be used only if hands are not visibly soiled. Soap and water should be used if hands are visibly soiled.

Latest California Updates on COVID-19

- Visit the California Department of Public Health website at <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Immunization/nCOV2019.aspx>
- California's COVID-19 webpage: <https://covid19.ca.gov/>

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