



## Racing Industry's Ability to Safely Operate During COVID-19 Crisis

The National HBPA in conjunction with horsemen and racing officials has put together these guidelines using existing successful protocols of tracks successfully operating and racing spectator free during the COVID-19 crisis. This document is intended as a resource for horsemen, race track operators or governing bodies and these recommendations do not replace clinical recommendations of health and veterinary authorities. These guidelines may evolve as they are implemented into practice and as we receive feedback. Finally, these guidelines were developed based on best practice protocols and procedures currently being utilized. Local factors should be taken into account if utilized with full understanding that these guidelines are informational and do not represent any assurance that the suggested action is all that is necessary or the optimum approach for a particular track. While the NHBPA wants to promote safe, healthy, live racing, it recognizes the rapidly changing health environment and must disclaim any liability for use of these guidelines.

### Recommended Coronavirus Policies for Maintaining Spectator Free Racing

- Establish a **Staff Directory** of all contacts for key personnel which can be accessible with cell phone numbers and emails. Also include the current management chain of command with names of key personnel;
- Establish a list of all on-track and nearby off-track medical facilities;
- Definitions of Essential personnel – employees who are considered responsible for basic minimum services and who are required to work when state services are temporarily reduced due to hazardous conditions. Non-essential personnel – employees who are not responsible for basic minimum services when state services are temporarily reduced due to hazardous conditions.
- Essential personnel may include racing officials as designated by the state, safety staff (ambulance drivers, track maintenance crew,) outriders, pony crew, starting-gate operators and specialized janitorial staff to sanitize the facility. Essential personnel involved with the care, training and racing of horses includes grooms, hotwalkers, exercise riders, trainers and their assistants, jockeys, blacksmiths, veterinarians, horse dentists, equine message therapists. Essential personnel licensed by the commission to ensure horse racing is held in compliance with state statutes and regulations include but is not limited to stewards, placing judges, official chart-caller, photo-finish operator, clocker and clerk of scales.
- To limit exposure and prevent the spread of germs and disease, **NO VISITORS/GUESTS** will be allowed to access the Backside, Racetrack, Track Apron, Paddock or Jockeys Room. Non-essential personnel are prohibited on the grounds;
- Only licensed and credentialed essential personnel will be granted access to the Backside, Racetrack, Track Apron, Paddock or Jockeys Room;
- Non-essential personnel should be prohibited, including all public service employees (including but not limited to food service, wagering tellers, ushers, admission staff).
- Develop a security team whose members oversee all access control procedures, monitoring and reporting requirements and ensure all suspected or confirmed cases of COVID-19 infection are properly communicated and documented;

- No wagering or food service in the grandstand;
- The Press Box should be closed to everyone except licensed and credentialed essential personnel;
- Stable cafeteria may remain open to serve essential personnel while following all State, Local and CDC guidelines and restrictions including patrons carrying out their food;
- All public areas of the grandstand are to be closed including for morning workouts.

## **Stable Gate (entrance to barn area) and Backside Security:**

- Only essential licensed personnel are allowed in through the stable gate. This means no visitors or guests including those who are accompanied by essential personnel;
- Establish a health check station(s) where temperatures, symptoms and names can be logged before being permitted access to stable area;
- There must be multiple health check stations at every accessible access gate/entry for the stable area;
- Before being allowed in the stable area all essential personnel must have their temperature taken and be found to be afebrile. *Log template may be provided;*
- Establish a color-coded wrist band system with a different color representing each day of the week;
- Colored band must be applied at the health check station and must be worn for the entirety of the day;
- Access to any and all not wearing a wrist band with the corresponding day's color should be denied;
- Trainers or their responsible personnel are accountable for all their employees to ensure essential personnel have had their temperature monitored and approved and thus are wearing the correct corresponding colored band and recommend logging all employee temperatures;
- Racetrack management is accountable for all their employees to ensure essential personnel have had their temperature monitored and approved and thus are wearing the correct corresponding colored band;
- Backside dormitory and living areas must be monitored routinely for compliance by security team members and assigned racing personnel;
- Determine and designate quarantine rooms to be set aside where possible for the sole purpose of providing a safe area for any backside employee who exhibits symptoms and thus be successfully quarantined, if required. Security team members will be needed to ensure these rooms are kept fully secured and quarantined individuals must complete quarantine requirements before returning to work;
- All incoming van drivers (providing they are afebrile) must wear a suitable covering (a mask, scarf or bandana) over their nose and mouth and wear gloves when entering to pick up or drop off horses. Drivers and attendants must have minimal contact with any stable personnel;
- All Pony Personnel must wear a suitable covering (a mask, scarf or bandana) over their nose and mouth and wear gloves when in contact with jockeys while mounted;
- Gate crew personnel must wear a suitable covering (a mask, scarf or bandana) over their nose and mouth and wear gloves while loading horses in the starting gate, when in contact with jockeys while mounted and will have no physical contact with any other personnel unless in the best interest of safety.

## **Suggested Cleaning and Hygiene Protocols:**

### **Cleaning protocols should include:**

- Focused cleaning/disinfection: increase frequency cleaning/disinfection of all high-risk surfaces (stable equipment, tack boxes, handles, elevator buttons, handrails, counter tops, etc.) and all high traffic areas;
- Provide additional hand washing and/or hand sanitizing stations and message the importance of employees washing hands;

- Jockey's quarters (including but not limited to lockers, showers, dressing areas and valet tables) should be disinfected with CDC recommended disinfectants and sanitized frequently throughout the day;
- The working gate crew shall disinfect the starting gate every morning before training, during breaks, after training and between every race;
- Establish designated personnel to disinfect the paddock and saddling area every morning before training, during breaks, after training and between every race;
- Shipping company's van drivers should disinfect vans and trailers between each and every trip;

## **Restricted Access Protocols:**

- The racetrack, the track apron and paddock access will be limited to Commissioned licensed trainers and essential personnel who have horses running that day;
- No owners, media or fans will be allowed on the track in order to limit outside exposure;
- No guests, with no exceptions;
- No assembling of any personnel in any areas and all personnel should practice social distancing;
- Walking ring must be closed to everyone other than licensed personnel who are required to accompany their horse to and from the saddling barn or racetrack;
- Jockeys will get on their horses as soon as possible and proceed directly to the racetrack for the post parade and warm up;
- Jockey's and their agents should be recommended to limit access to backside;
- The racetrack, the track apron and paddock must remain closed to the public, non-essential personnel, and anyone who has not followed security protocol entry;
- A Security Access Log should be maintained by a member of the security team to register who accessed the apron on a specific day.

## **Access to the Jockeys' Room and Jockeys' Room Restricted Protocols:**

- The Jockeys' Guild should be consulted for organizational established protocols;
- Only essential personnel licensed by the state and jockeys scheduled to ride in races will be allowed access to the Jockey's room;
- All jockeys and essential personnel in the Jockeys' Room (including Valets and Clerk of the Scales) will have their temperatures monitored daily. Anyone showing any signs of illness must be denied access to the premises;
- Lockers and workstations will be spaced a minimum of the required six feet apart;
- All jockeys will be required to wear riding gloves;
- Jockeys must be prohibited from any physical contact between themselves and others;
- Jockeys are required to leave the Jockeys' Room immediately following their last ride;
- All sauna and extraneous facilities must be closed. Jockey's quarters (including but not limited to lockers, showers, dressing areas and valet tables) should be disinfected with CDC recommended disinfectants and sanitized frequently throughout the day;
- Jockeys should be encouraged to limit travel and a 14-day mandatory self-quarantine is in effect for all jockeys and personnel who have traveled internationally;
- Certain states have similar self-quarantine orders in effect for anyone traveling into the state from another state.