

# Phase 2 Live Horse Racing COVID-19 Requirements

Live Horse Racing operators must adopt a written procedure for live horse racing activity that is at least as protective as the Phase 2 safety and health requirements below.

## Requirements Specific to Live Horse Racing Operations

### **General Protocols:**

- All live horse racing is to be conducted spectator free.
- Establish a **Staff Directory** of all contacts for key personnel including both 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;
- A listing of essential personnel will be available – employees who are considered responsible for basic services.
- Essential personnel may include racing officials as designated by the Washington Horse Racing Commission, including, but limited to, safety staff (ambulance drivers, track maintenance crew) outriders, pony crew, official starter and their assistants, (gate crew personnel), and specialized housekeeping 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, and 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, photo-finish operator, clocker, identifier, veterinarian staff, paddock judge and clerk of scales.
- To limit exposure and prevent the spread of germs and disease, **NO VISITORS/GUESTS** will be allowed to access the Stable Area, 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 Stable Area, Racetrack, Track Apron, Paddock or Jockeys Room;
- 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 as determined in employer's plan;
- 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.
- Licensed owners are permitted to view their horse on race day. A designated viewing area will be established and social distancing required. For those horses with multiple owners, a limit will be established for the number of owners allowed access for each horse.

### **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;
- A health check station(s) where temperatures, symptoms and names can be logged before being permitted access to stable area is currently in operation;

- Before being allowed in the stable area all essential personnel must have their temperature taken and be found to be afebrile.
- Trainers or their responsible personnel are accountable for all their employees to ensure essential personnel have had their temperature monitored and approved;
- Racetrack management is accountable for all their employees to ensure essential personnel have had their temperature monitored and approved;
- Stable area dormitory and living areas are monitored routinely by association security;
- A quarantine area has been established for the sole purpose of providing a safe area to be successfully quarantined, if required. Association security will ensure these rooms are kept fully secured;
- Ensure frequent and adequate hand washing with adequate maintenance of supplies.
- All incoming van drivers must wear at least a cloth face covering (a mask, scarf or bandana) over their nose and mouth and wear gloves, where safe and applicable, when entering to pick up or drop off horses. Drivers and attendants must have minimal contact with any stable personnel. Vans should be disinfected between trips;
- All Pony Personnel must wear at least a cloth face covering (a mask, scarf or bandana) over their nose and mouth and wear gloves, where safe and applicable, 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, where safe and applicable, while loading horses in the starting gate and will have no physical contact with any other personnel unless in the best interest of safety.

#### **Cleaning protocols:**

- Ensure frequent and adequate hand washing with adequate maintenance of supplies;
- Hand washing stations and/or sanitizing stations will be made available in all areas;
- Assistant starters will disinfect the gate daily;
- High volume areas and surfaces will be disinfected with increased frequency;
- The paddock and saddling area will be disinfected daily.

#### **Restricted Access Protocols:**

- One licensee is allowed in the receiving barn with each horse prior to each race for identification purposes, unless prior approval is given;
- At least a cloth face covering (a mask, scarf or bandana) will be required in the receiving barn for licensees and WHRC employees;
- For horses selected for post-race testing, it is recommended only one licensee should be present with each horse, but no more than two will be allowed;
- At least a cloth face covering (a mask, scarf or bandana) will be required in the test barn area for licensees and WHRC employees;

#### **Access to the Jockeys' Room and Jockeys' Room Restricted 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 will be denied access to the premises and must be quarantined for 14 days;
- Lockers and workstations will be spaced a minimum of the required six feet apart;
- All jockeys will be required to wear riding gloves that will be changed or sanitized between races;
- 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 will be closed. Showers may remain open but will be sanitized frequently throughout the day.

## **Phase 2 Safety and Health Requirements**

All businesses have a general obligation to keep a safe and healthy worksite in accordance with state and federal law and safety and health rules for a variety of workplace hazards. In addition, they must comply with the following COVID-19 worksite-specific safety practices as outlined in the Governor’s “Stay Home, Stay Healthy” Proclamation 20-25, and in accordance with L&I [General Requirements and Prevention Ideas for Workplaces](#) and the Washington State Department of Health Workplace and [Employer Resources & Recommendations](#).

All businesses are required to post signage at the entrance to their business to strongly encourage their customers to use cloth face coverings when in store with their staff.

Employers must specifically ensure operations follow the main L&I COVID-19 requirements to protect workers, including:

- Educate workers in the language they understand best about coronavirus and how to prevent transmission and the employer’s COVID-19 policies.
- Maintain minimum six-foot separation between all employees (and customers) in all interactions at all times. When strict physical distancing is not feasible for a specific task, other prevention measures are required, such as use of barriers, minimize staff or customers in narrow or enclosed areas, stagger breaks, and work shift starts.
- Provide (at no cost to employees) and require the wearing of personal protective equipment (PPE) such as gloves, goggles, face shields and face masks as appropriate or required for the work activity being performed. Cloth facial coverings must be worn by every employee not working alone on the jobsite unless their exposure dictates a higher level of protection under L&I safety and health rules and guidance with the following exceptions: when working alone in an office, vehicle, or at a job site; if the individual is deaf or hard of hearing, or is communicating with someone who relies on language cues such as facial markers and expression and mouth movements as a part of communication; if the individual has a medical condition or disability that makes wearing a facial covering inappropriate. Refer to [Coronavirus Facial Covering and Mask Requirements](#) for additional details. A cloth facial covering is described in the [Department of Health guidance](#).
- Ensure frequent and adequate hand washing with adequate maintenance of supplies. Use disposable gloves where safe and applicable to prevent transmission on tools or other items that are shared.

- Establish a housekeeping schedule that includes frequent cleaning and sanitizing with a particular emphasis on commonly touched surfaces.
- Screen employees for signs/symptoms of COVID-19 at start of shift. Make sure sick employees stay home or immediately go home if they feel or appear sick. Cordon off any areas where an employee with probable or confirmed COVID-19 illness worked, touched surfaces, etc. until the area and equipment is cleaned and sanitized. Follow the [cleaning guidelines set by the CDC](#) to deep clean and sanitize.
- Post a sign at the entrance to the business that strongly encourages customers to wear cloth facial coverings. Employers are encouraged to require customers to wear cloth facial coverings, in order to protect their employees.

A site-specific COVID-19 supervisor shall be designated by the employer at each job site to monitor the health of employees and enforce the COVID-19 job site safety plan.

A worker may refuse to perform unsafe work, including hazards created by COVID-19. It is unlawful for an employer to take adverse action against a worker who has engaged in safety-protected activities under the law if the individual's work refusal meets certain requirements. Information is available in these publications: [Safety and Health Discrimination in the Workplace brochure](#) and [Spanish Safety and Health Discrimination brochure](#).

Employees who choose to remove themselves from a worksite because they do not believe it is safe to work due to the risk of COVID-19 exposure may have access to certain leave or unemployment benefits. Employers must provide high-risk individuals covered by Proclamation 20-46 with their choice of access to available employer-granted accrued leave or unemployment benefits if an alternative work arrangement is not feasible. Other employees may have access to expanded family and medical leave included in the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, unemployment benefits, or other paid time off depending on the circumstances. Additional information is available at [Novel Coronavirus Outbreak \(COVID-19\) Resources](#) and [Paid Leave under the WA Family Care Act and the Families First Coronavirus Response Act](#).

**No live horse racing operators may operate until they can meet and maintain all the requirements in this document, including providing materials, schedules and equipment required to comply. Additional considerations are made as suggestions and may be adopted, as appropriate.**

All issues regarding worker safety and health are subject to enforcement action under L&I's Division of Occupational Safety and Health (DOSH).

- Employers can request COVID-19 [prevention advice and help](#) from L&I's Division of Occupational Safety and Health (DOSH).
- Employee Workplace safety and health complaints may be submitted to the L&I DOSH Safety Call Center: (1-800-423-7233) or via e-mail to [adag235@lni.wa.gov](mailto:adag235@lni.wa.gov).
- General questions about how to comply with the agreement practices can be submitted to the state's Business Response Center at <https://coronavirus.wa.gov/how-you-can-help/covid-19-business-and-worker-inquiries>.
- All other violations related to Proclamation 20-25 can be submitted at <https://bit.ly/covid-compliance>.