

Covid-19 Protocols for Horsemen

Veterinarians:

- Designate one person from your barn to interact with veterinarians and farriers to limit the human to human exposure.
- Keep as much distance between you and your veterinarians as possible. Leave the horse on a loose shank, or stand on the other side of the horse to allow as much distance as possible.
- Private veterinarians and farriers should consider enforcing similar measures as they move from barn to barn during this time.

Trainers:

Currently, there is no evidence to indicate that horses or other pets (e.g., cats/dogs) can become ill with COVID-19 or spread it to other animals or people per the most current American Veterinary Medical Association guidelines.

It is important to limit human contact. To do so consider:

- Limiting the number of staff in the barn to essential staff
- Staggering shifts to ensure that there are as few people as possible in the barn at any one
- Having one or two designated individuals to work with veterinarians, farriers, and other outside individuals to minimize contact with as few of your staff as possible.
- Having consistently compartmentalized staff, meaning individuals day-to-day routines should be that they work with the same people daily, and do not work different shifts having interaction with new or different individuals.
- Limiting the number of individuals allowed in the tack room or office at any one time. Six feet is the minimum recommended distance between people. If your staff can touch one another with fully extended arms, they are too close.
- Assigning equipment to specific barn personnel. For example, each hot walker should have their own shank with their name on it. When stored, it should not be stored with other equipment until it is cleaned and sanitized.

Other examples of equipment that should be limited to being touched by one person or as few people as possible:

- Each horse's water and feed buckets
- Cross ties/stall ties
- Grooming supplies
- Tack (wipe down bridles (or soak them), saddles, girths, etc. before and after use)
- Halters
- Wheelbarrow/shovels/rakes/brooms

Additionally, each of the above should be sprayed, soaked, or wiped daily. Also have the following areas cleaned often throughout the day:

- Doorknobs
- Stall clips/gates
- Barn door handles
- Light switches
- Counters/desks

COVID-19 is easily killed in the environment with most disinfectants – if we use them. Consider using the following:

- Lysol spray (or similar)
- Hand sanitizers
- Diluted nolvasan, povidone-iodine, bleach, or chlorhexidine
- Soap and water (a bucket of soap and water continuously available for hand washing or rinsing is convenient and effective – but it must be changed regularly if dirt or manure gets into it).

Additional Guidelines

- Barns should be open to allow as much exchange of fresh air as possible
- Paperwork: Paperwork should be completed and submitted electronically whenever possible
- Communication should be via phone call, email or text when possible.
- If you have a fever or feel unwell, stay home.