



## COCHRANE & DISTRICT AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

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### MANAGEMENT OF OUTDOOR FACILITIES DURING COVID-19 HEALTH CRISIS

May 14, 2020

The Cochrane & District Agricultural Society (CDAS) has conferred with Alberta Health Services, the Alberta Equestrian Federation and the Alberta Association of Agricultural Societies in order to begin a phased in reopening of the Ag Society Park.

Within the Province of Alberta, a phased opening of public activities has been announced. When assessing which phase of the Alberta Government plan we fall into, it becomes a little complicated. Our indoor arena will definitely fall into Phase 3, however we have received notice from Rocky View County that outdoor equestrian facilities may reopen with enhanced restrictions as per governmental guidelines. We are keeping a close eye on developments as our reopening will be dependent on the success of the current reopenings and no new spike of infections in the province.

#### Reopening Plan

Begin by working with riding passholders and user groups to resuming limited outdoor activities. Under the strict protocols of AHS guidelines (See below), groups of 15 or less would be allowed to use the appropriate outdoor facilities. Each group may also be governed by their national organization and their insurance company and would be required to provide "proof of approval for commencement of their activities" to CDAS.

Each individual and each member of the User Groups will need to make their own assessment of the risks for their particular personal situation. We must all be respectful of those members and groups that choose not to return to in-person activities at this time.

#### GENERAL RESTRICTIONS

- Restrictions on gatherings are set at a maximum of 15 people. This means that no more than 15 people could be in a particular area at any one time. So one group would have to be completely gone from the area before the second group could start arriving.
- Adherence to the social distancing at least 2 meters distance from each other, unless they live in same household. If this is not possible then must wear mask.
- If you or someone in your household is sick, stay home.
- Avoid touching benches, fences, railings, etc. unless absolutely necessary. If you must touch gates in order to open, then use hand sanitizer immediately as well as spray gate with disinfecting spray.
- Avoid touching your face. Sneeze or cough into your elbow

- When User Group comes onto grounds, one person must be appointed to be responsible for making sure the protocols as outlined within this document are adhered to – **the COVID-19 official**. The most obvious choice would be a safety officer, or a Director of the group or the DC in the case of Pony Club. Each group will inform CDAS of the name of the appointed COVID-19 official.
  
- The User Group's **COVID-19 official** will be responsible to:
  1. Provide, to CDAS and their own members, a written plan as well as drawing if applicable as how exactly the group will support their members in following the restrictions while at Ag Society Park.
  2. Make up a schedule to ensure that no more than 15 people are at the facility at any one time and communicate this schedule to their members and to CDAS.
  3. If possible, have a separate entrance and exit gate to support members in their efforts to stay 2 m. apart.
  4. Makes sure that members abide by the rules of social distancing
  5. Makes sure than no more than 15 people are on site at one time. If more than 15 people then the official must make someone leave the site immediately.
  6. Ensure that there are enough sanitation supplies i.e. hand sanitizer and disinfecting spray for gates, on hand at common areas such as entrance gates, etc. If supplies are running low, then notify CDAS office.
  7. Know exactly where the First Aid Kit is located. Ensure appropriate supplies are in the Kit. And know the protocol for handling an emergency.
  8. Have access to spare (clean) non-medical grade masks in case of an emergency.
  9. Ensure there is no unauthorized access to any of the indoor facilities such as club houses, indoor arena or barn.
  10. Keeps a record of all people on site at a specific date (in order to make contact tracing possible in case of an outbreak).
  11. Wipes down all commonly touched surfaces before members arrive and after all have left (specifically entry gates and shared manure forks / wheelbarrows).

### Further Guidelines

1. Only **outdoor** activities are allowed.
2. In case of inclement weather, the activity will have to be cancelled. It cannot be moved indoors.
3. If an individual does not adhere to the protocol, the **COVID-19 official** will first warn them and if they do not comply the official will ask them to leave and they must comply immediately.
4. Also, be sure that the 15 person limit includes parents, observers, instructors, volunteers, etc. No exceptions will be allowed. And because the COVID-19 official must also be on site for the duration of all activities, the count would also include this person.

Example: If the roping club requires 3 people to handle the cattle and roping chute and there are 3 spectators, then only people would be allowed to be in

the outdoor arena roping. (3 handlers, 3 spectators, 1 Covid-19 official & 8 ropers = 15)

Example 2: If BMX and Pony Club has 1 parent with each child and there is also an instructor present, then there could only be 7 children riding at one time. (6 children, 6 parents & 1 instructor & 1 Covid-19 official = 14). If the Covid-19 official was also one of the parents, then there could be 7 children, 7 parents and 1 instructor.

NOTE: AHS has advised us that if a parent remains in the vehicle at all times, then they would not have to be counted as part of the 15 person group. However, they may not exit vehicle for any reason what so ever.

However the group decides to configure their session, the number of people present may not exceed 15.

5. Management of the changeover between groups will be the most critical time so extra care must be taken that no more than 15 people are at the particular facility at any one time.

The following suggestions can be followed:

- Make enough time between lessons/groups for the first group to leave and the following group to arrive. If necessary, lesson/session times will have to be shortened to allow for enough time to switch groups.
- Lessons/sessions cannot overlap. That means that one group cannot be cooling down and loading horses when the next group comes in. Or members cannot be loading up bikes when the next group is coming in.
- Limit the time spent on the grounds by asking members to prepare their equipment or horses at home, so they only need to tack up once they arrive or unload their bikes on site and are ready to go to their lesson/session quickly.
- Limit the time spent on the grounds after the ride. Riders should bring coolers and load horses and leave as soon as possible after their lesson. Bike riders should load up their bikes immediately after their ride and leave the grounds.
- If it is *absolutely* necessary that a horse is cooled out at the trailer, the member and accompanying parent should remain in the vehicle until such time as the horse can be loaded and driven off the grounds.

#### **MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES**

- Abide by the general Provincial rules for social distancing
- No access to indoor facilities, such as a clubhouse, indoor arena or washrooms.
- Limit your time on site as closely to your lesson/session time as possible. Do not arrive early or stay too long after you are finished.
- Groom your horse or prepare your bike and personal gear at home, so you only need to tack up or unload your bike when you arrive at the grounds.
- After your ride, load up and leave the facility as soon as possible. This will allow other members to get in their ride.

- Do not carpool with someone from a different household (unless a member of your cohort family) to get to the facility.
- Do not share any equipment and don't ask anyone to hold items for you (phones, crops and even your horse)
- With respect to equestrian activities where ponies are leased, borrowed or shared:
  - o If the rider leases or borrows a pony exclusively, they should bring tack and grooming tools home, clean it and use it exclusively.
  - o If tack has to be shared because more riders from different households use the same tack, the rider is to wipe down tack and grooming tools after use with an appropriate disinfectant. (Use soap or tack cleaner on your leather tack, avoid alcohol-based cleaning products as they dry out your leather, if you do use them, make sure to condition your leather afterwards).
  - o Owners of shared ponies should also disinfect halters and lead lines after use.
  - o Riders could wear their riding gloves while grooming and riding the shared pony. Don't touch your face with the gloves and wash them when you get home
- Each rider must also have access to a (non-medical grade) mask for use in case of an emergency.
- When youth riders are accompanied by an adult, these adults may either remain in their vehicles or they must stay 2 meters apart from each other and two meters away from the riding ring or bike track.
- If assistance of a rider is needed, the responsible adult will be the one to perform those tasks. (For instance, to hold the pony while mounting, or to adjusting equipment or fixing bike). Only one assisting adult will be allowed in the ring or the track at one time. If a pony needs to be on a lead line, this also has to be done by the responsible adult. In that case more than one adult would be allowed in the ring.
- Each rider must sanitizer their hands when arriving on site, when using communal equipment (gate, manure forks, wheelbarrows) and when they leave. CDAS will provide one sanitizer bottle at each facility however everyone should also bring their own.

### **INSTRUCTOR RESPONSIBILITIES**

- It is the instructor's responsibility to decide if an activity is safe for the group of riders they are teaching.
- Ensure adequate spacing between students is being maintained at all times.
- Lesson planning should include a cooldown, so students do not have to stay at the facility beyond their lesson times to cool down their horse before going home.
- The instructor will keep a distance of 2 meters from the students. If a student needs assistance, the instructor will invite the accompanying adult into the ring to do this. (For instance, to hold the pony while mounting, or to help with tightening the girth or adjusting stirrups or other gear). Only one assisting adult will be allowed in the ring at one time.
- The instructor is the one responsible for moving arena equipment such as poles, jump cups and arena letters around. If more than one person touches this equipment, they should be disinfected after use.
- Wearing a mask is optional but should not impede the ability to give clear instructions.

## IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY

- In the unfortunate case of an accident, the accompanying adult will be the one to help the rider. In case the rider is 18 or older and did not bring an accompanying adult, the rider will be expected to self-administer first aid. The instructor or other first aid person(s) available at the facility will support the rider or responsible adult from a distance.
- Go through the normal triage and call 911 if necessary.
- If help has to be administered by a person other than the accompanying adult:
  - o If appropriate the rider will be asked to put on a non-medical grade mask first. If that is not possible, ask them to turn their head away from you.
  - o sanitize your hands and put on disposable gloves from the first aid kit before administering first aid.
  - o Don't touch your face at any time during the procedure.
  - o Remove gloves carefully after you have completed your first aid and sanitize your hands again after administering first aid (hand sanitizer is on site with the COVID-19 Official)
  - o For serious cases, when CPR is needed: Appointed First aid providers and instructors have to familiarize themselves with new protocols for administering CPR under COVID-19: <https://www.redcross.ca/training-and-certification/first-aid-tips-and-resources/first-aid-tips/first-aid-protocols-for-an-unresponsive-person-during-covid-19> and <https://www.heartandstroke.ca/articles/modification-to-hands-only-cpr-during-the-covid-19-pandemic>

## APPENDIX 1.

### BIOSECURITY STANDARD FOR THE EQUINE SECTOR

As horse owners we should all be familiar with biosecurity measures. Normally those are in place to prevent an outbreak of a contagious disease in our horse populations, but in this case, we are protecting the owners/riders.

The Equine Canada framework to return to business operations under COVID19 ([https://www.equestrian.ca/cdn/storage/resources\\_v2/cRSrWCZPbutzEN8Qg/original/cRSrWCZPbutzEN8Qg.pdf](https://www.equestrian.ca/cdn/storage/resources_v2/cRSrWCZPbutzEN8Qg/original/cRSrWCZPbutzEN8Qg.pdf)) refers to the information on biosecurity best practices from the Canadian Food Inspection Agency as an extra resource for best practices. You can visit their website for more information: <https://www.inspection.gc.ca/animal-health/terrestrial-animals/biosecurity/standards-and-principles/equine-sector/eng/1460662612042/1460662650577#a31>

The AEF has put out a protocol to resume business operations, including lessons. You can find this protocol on their website at:

<https://www.albertaequestrian.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Equine-Facility-Recommended-Guidelines-COVID-002.pdf>

In a nutshell, the six steps of a Biosecurity plan are:

1. Prepare a diagram for farm or facility
  - a. To visualize and identify places where horses and people come into contact with other horses, people and equipment
  - b. Identify traffic routes and areas where people, horses and equipment may interact
2. Identify risk factors (types of diseases and their exposure, introduction and transmission)
  - a. In this case we are looking at COVID19, which spreads mostly through liquid droplets directly or through communal surfaces

3. Review management practices

Practices to review include:

- a. make sure every rider, parent, instructor knows the protocols
  - b. make sure everyone is aware of Provincial restrictions on social gatherings, travel and self-isolation
  - c. Establish who has to stay away from your facility (flu-like symptoms, travel)
  - d. Limit gatherings to 15 people
  - e. Purchase cleaning and sanitation products
4. Identify biosecurity goals, protocols and best practices

Some guidelines for best practices include:

- a. Identify entry points and provide them with signage as to how to comply with biosecurity safety practices
- b. Setting up an online health screening declaration form for every person entering the facility (see as an example:

[https://www.equestrian.ca/cdn/storage/resources\\_v2/yd4AMkDgSX5qPqRuG/original/yd4AMkDgSX5qPqRuG.pdf](https://www.equestrian.ca/cdn/storage/resources_v2/yd4AMkDgSX5qPqRuG/original/yd4AMkDgSX5qPqRuG.pdf)

- c. Create an online schedule for members attending lessons
  - d. Identify common areas for extra signage reminding people of the rules under COVID 19
  - e. Decide if non-essential people should enter
  - f. Decide on the maximum people on site at one time (15 for Alberta)
  - g. Hold activities outdoors
5. Implement the plan  
Prioritize your biosecurity tasks and have a timeline for their completion
6. Review the effectiveness of the biosecurity plan and seek continuous improvement of best practices.
- a. Keep an eye on the ever-changing Provincial guidelines, to determine if your biosecurity practices still fall within the guidelines.

DRAFT

## APPENDIX 2 – WAIVER RELATING TO COVID-19



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For the safety of all our members, passholders and user groups, we ask you to fill out this self-declaration form before attending activities at the Ag Society Park

1	<p>I understand the risk of coming in contact with other people during the COVID-19 global pandemic at the Ag Society Park. I understand that I could become infected with COVID-19 while at the Ag Society Park.</p> <p>I agree and assume all risk and release and absolve the Cochrane &amp; District Agricultural Society and its affiliated officials, volunteers, offices, directors, agents, representatives and employees and the owners and occupiers of the land upon which the activity is held, from all responsibility, liability or claims I may have arising from participating in an in person activity at the Ag Society Park during the COVID-19 pandemic.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
2	To your knowledge have you or anyone in your household had contact of any kind with someone diagnosed with COVID-19 within the last 14 days?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
3	Are you experiencing any cold or flu-like symptoms, including, but not limited to fever, cough, sore throat, respiratory illness, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
4	Have you or anyone in your household returned from any destination outside of Canada or travelled in an airplane from any destination within the last 14 days?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
5	I understand that should such above mentioned circumstances arise I have a duty to my own club and to the Cochrane & District Agricultural Society to not join any in person activities at the Ag Society Park for a period of 14 days. Upon re-entry I will be required to complete a further self-declaration.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
6	I have read, understood and will abide by the protocols sent out by the Cochrane & District Agricultural Society	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
7	I have read, understood and will abide by the reactivation plan sent out by the Cochrane & District Agricultural Society and/or my own group.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

Print name \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
 (legal guardian name if members under 18)

Member name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 (if document is signed by legal guardian for members under 18)

# PREVENT THE SPREAD OF CORONAVIRUS

You can help prevent the spread of COVID-19 in Alberta. Prevention starts with awareness.

- Practice physical distancing
- Self-isolate if you're feeling sick
- Wash your hands frequently
- Cover coughs and sneezes
- Avoid touching your face
- Do not travel outside of Canada

## PRACTICE PHYSICAL DISTANCING

All Albertans have a responsibility to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. Take steps to protect yourself and others:

- Limit the number of times you leave your home
- Stay at least 2 meters away from others when you go out for groceries, medical trips, and other essential needs
- Have groceries or other items delivered if possible
- If you go outside for fresh air maintain 2 meters distance from others
- Avoid overcrowding in elevators and other enclosed spaces
- Wash your hands after touching communal surfaces such as handrails, handles
- Postpone family visits, friend gatherings, and group outings, especially if household or family members are senior citizens or have high-risk medical conditions
- Do not gather with other people if you have a fever or a cough, even if symptoms appear to be mild.
- Obey all mandatory self-isolation requirements and mass gathering restrictions now in place in Alberta.

Legally enforceable public health measures are in place to limit the time Albertans spend in contact with each other. Anyone violating these restrictions is now subject to fines.

## MONITOR YOUR SYMPTOMS

COVID-19 symptoms are similar to influenza and other respiratory illnesses. Symptoms can include:

- cough
- fever
- shortness of breath
- runny nose
- sore throat

If you have any of these symptoms stay home and self-isolate; do not go to an ER or medical clinic. **Call Health Link at 8-1-1 for more information.** Services are available in 240 languages.

## SELF ISOLATE

You are legally required to self-isolate for:

- **14 days** if you returned from international travel or are a close contact of a person with COVID-19
- **10 days** if you have a cough, fever, shortness of breath, runny nose, or sore throat that is not related to a pre-existing illness or health condition

If you are self-isolating:

- Stay home — do not go to work, social events or any other public areas or community settings
- Avoid close contact with other people, including household members but especially seniors and people with chronic conditions or compromised immune systems
- Do not use public transportation or ride sharing
- Do not go for walks in public places. This includes children in mandatory self-isolation.
- If you go outside, you must remain on private property not accessible by others.
- If you live in an apartment building or high-rise, you must stay inside and cannot use the elevators or stairwells. If your balcony is private and at least 2 metres away from other balconies, you may use your balcony to get fresh air.