

Covid-19 Protocols and Procedures for Stepping Stones Riding Program

Stepping Stones Riding Program (SSRP) has put together these procedures to ensure the safety of our riders and staff. Riding horses is considered low risk in the transmission of Covid-19. According to the Governor's Order, essential critical workers include individuals providing care and exercise to ensure the health of and welfare of equines in California are essential workers. The program will open in three phases. Phase 1 includes fully independent riders that do not require assistance in haltering, grooming, or tacking. These riders are able to adjust girth, stirrups, and mount and dismount independently. Phase 2 will include riders that may need brief periods of assistance where the 6 foot distance will be breached for a minimal amount of time. Phase 3 will include riders that need significant assistance in grooming, tacking, or may need assistance riding and require a leader or sidewalker.

Facility Access

- Access is restricted to only essential personnel (veterinarians, farriers, caretakers, trainers, sponsors, owners)
- No access to the persons showing symptoms of Covid-19, or who has been exposed to a person with symptoms.
- An online sign up form will be provided to ensure there's not more than 10 individuals on the grounds at one time
- All individuals must stay 6 feet apart
- Face masks required by staff if they'll be within 6 feet from rider
- Hand sanitizer provided on rolling cart in front of tack room
- Limit farm activity to animal husbandry including grooming, feeding, watering, mucking, lessons and exercising
- Staff will be required to self monitor and symptom check before working

Facility Biosecurity Measures

- All individuals entering must wash hands or use hand sanitizer when entering grounds
- Individuals should only touch equipment and supplies necessary for completing the tasks of caring for and exercising the specific horse
- Helmets, grooming supplies, tack and other equipment shall not be shared among riders. Any shared equipment should be disinfected before use. Sponsors should use their own grooming supplies. If the rider does not have their own, they may make a grooming box with brushes and designate it as theirs and put their name on the box
- Each horse will have its own bridle and grooming supplies

Cleaning and Disinfecting Measures to Prevent Covid-19 Transmission

- Any communal leather tack must be cleaned daily with leather cleaner
- Disinfectant will be provided in a labeled spray bottle next to the tack room and also by the pasture gate
- Gate latches, locks, tractor steering wheel and controls, rake handles, wheelbarrow handles and frequently touched surfaces shall be disinfected daily by whomever feeds in the evening

Signage

- Must have a copy of Social Distancing Protocol posted near entrance
- Signage shall inform all individuals to avoid entering facility if they have a cough or fever or other symptoms of Covid-19