



Manitoba
Horse Council

MANITOBA HORSE COUNCIL

GUIDELINES FOR OPERATING SANCTIONED COMPETITIONS DURING COVID-19

Fact Sheet About Equestrian Competitions

In the context of the World Health Organization (WHO) guidance, equestrian sport is deemed a low risk for COVID-19 spread due to the following factors:

- **Equestrian sport is a non-contact sport**
 - It involves a horse and rider as a combination
 - Combinations compete individually in the competition arena, or
 - Combinations compete as teams of four in the arena for periods of no more than 10 minutes
 - Equipment is not shared between competitors
 - When mounted physical distancing of 4.5 metres, or more, is required in order to keep horses and competitors safe and avoid accidents from striking or kicking

- **Equestrian sport does not enjoy large spectatorship**
 - Manitoba events generally do not attract many spectators

- **Outdoor activity**
 - Equestrian sport is primarily an outdoor activity with competitions taking place in large open-air facilities. If an indoor event is required due to inclement weather or other safety reasons, the arenas used are generally a minimum size of 115' x 243'.

- **Risk communication is a priority and undertaken before, during and after competitions**
 - We have risk assessed our sport to identify physical distancing issues, and put in place a mitigation plan to reduce the risks of contact, plus an appropriate programme for cleaning and disinfecting

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1. Introduction

Manitoba Horse Council (MHC) is dedicated to ensuring the safety and welfare of Manitoba equestrians, and has provided the following guidelines to support competition organizers, staff, volunteers and officials in an effort to mitigate the risk of spreading COVID-19. Competitors, coaches, trainers and grooms may also find it useful in understanding the organizers' expectations at an event.

Competition in Manitoba ranges from large indoor and outdoor events, to smaller more informal events. Competitions may include outdoor events such as Distance Riding and Polo which are not linked to any physical structure. We ask that organizers treat these guidelines as gold standard for all events regardless of size, and apply whichever practices fit your event.

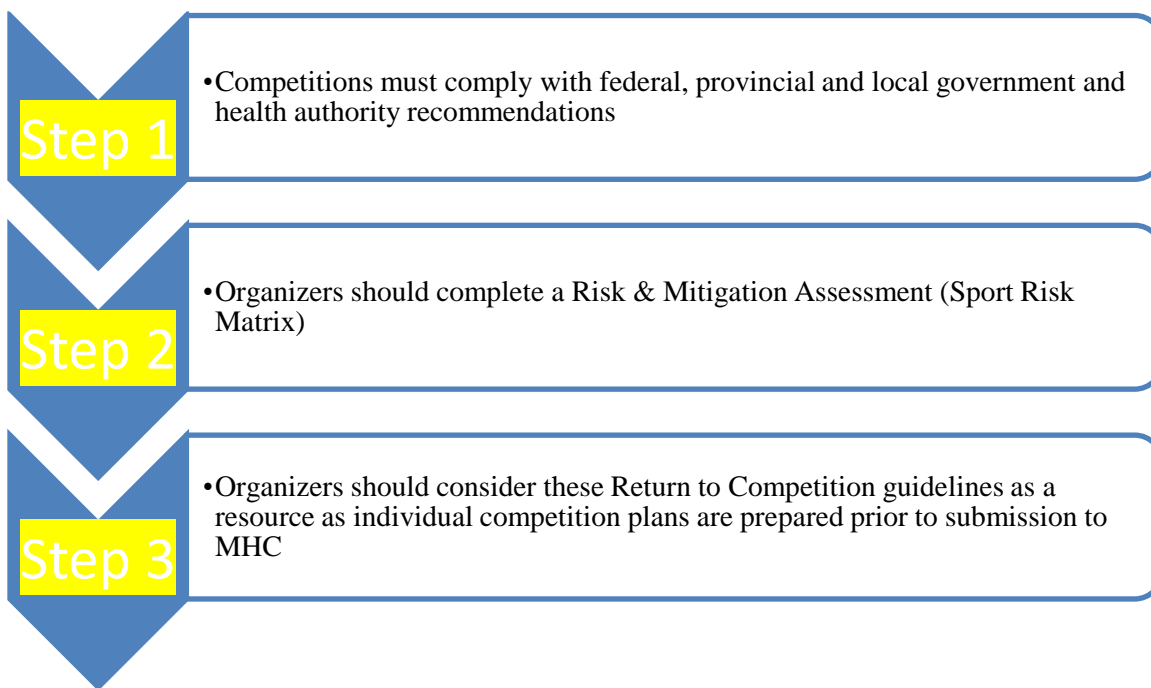
Any event held by an MHC member club is considered "sanctioned" by MHC, regardless of whether Equestrian Canada or any other national organization is an additional sanctioner.

These guidelines are meant to comply with the Manitoba government and health authority regulations as at the date of the guidelines' approval. Guidelines may subsequently change, and it is the competition organizers' responsibility to keep up to date with those guidelines in conjunction with the hosting facility.

The document and all the posters will be available online at (.....)

Note: Participants take personal responsibility when hosting and attending competitions.

The use of the word Participant includes competitors, grooms, coaches/trainers, parents, guardians (for minors) competition organizers, staff, volunteers, officials (judges, stewards, medical personnel, veterinarians etc.), vendors and service providers etc.



2. Responsibilities of Competition Organizers

All MHC/EC sanctioned competitions must be conducted in accordance with Manitoba regulations. Competition Organizers should implement best practices for mitigating risk related to the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Competition Organizers and Facility Managers must exercise a reasonable duty of care to ensure COVID-19 mitigation activities are in place.

Show Organizers should work closely with the hosting venue to ensure that all social distancing, markings, bathroom, garbage clean up, concessions, entry/exits etc., are prepared and maintained in line with current provincial requirements. Assign responsibility and be in complete agreement on any departure from the standards. Such task responsibility should be included in the Competition Organizer's COVID-19 plan.

2.1 Competition Preparations

2.1.1 Signage

- Post signage at entrances and throughout the competition venue displaying all best practices and guidelines in effect including Manitoba government and health authority safety advisories
- *Signage should clearly state that anyone who has a fever, exhibits COVID-19 symptoms, has tested positive for COVID-19, or has been in contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 cannot enter the competition venue*
- Links to printable posters can be found in Appendix 3

2.1.2 Entries

- Only accept advance entries and payment online or by phone; no walk-ups

- Limit entries to meet current Manitoba restrictions, including those traveling from outside Manitoba. This may include limiting the divisions and classes offered at the competition
- Make available a Self Declaration (possibly with the Prize List/Show Bill) and have all entrants supply the completed declaration at registration, along with a Waiver. A drafts are available in Appendix 3 and on MHC’s website in the Competitions section.
- Store the Self Declarations securely for 21 days and make available, if required, for contact tracing. It is recommended that waivers and self-declarations be retained minimally for 2 years.
- Require competitors to list with their entry the support personnel they will have with them for the competition i.e. name, phone number and email for coach, trainer, groom, parent or responsible adult (if a minor). With this information create a “Grounds/Site Access List” and provide this list to the entrance attendant(s)
- Stalls and hay/shavings should be prepaid in advance of arrival and delivered to stalls before competitors arrive onsite
- Arrange warm up times/competitor ride times prior to the show, (and in the event of a multi-day show, in the evening for the next day); or alternatively have a “show and go” framework
- Consider cancellation and credit policies to allow anyone with COVID-19 exposure or symptoms to receive refunds or future credits if they must withdraw last minute

2.1.3 Access

- Anyone who exhibits COVID-19 symptoms or has been in contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 within the last two weeks, should not enter the competition site
- Limit access to the venue to only the following
 - Competition Organiser and the staff /volunteers needed to run the competition
 - Competitors, grooms (one groom per competitor), coaches, trainers
 - Medical Personnel (Human)
 - Medical Personnel (Equine) The veterinarian and farrier may be on call, but must be within 30 minutes of the competition in case of an emergency (see exclusion in (section) for Distance Riding vet checks)
 - Parent or responsible adult for competitors who are minors
 - Officials (with regard to discipline, to include COVID-19 Compliance Officer, Judges, Stewards, Ring Crew, Announcer, Score keeper, Scribes, Show Secretary(s) and Assistants, Gate crew, Cattle Crew etc.)
- Cross reference everyone arriving against the “Venue Access List”
- Restrict stables/barns and spectator areas for indoor venues, and ensure trailer/car parking for outdoor events respect distance requirements

2.1.4 Authority, Roles and Responsibilities

This section should be drafted by the Competition Organizer to make it specific to the competition.

Record the following as part of your plan:

- a) identify who has ultimate authority over access/removal of participants from the venue
- b) define the roles and responsibilities of all staff/volunteers on site
- c) create a decision tree to assess risks, outlining scenarios, and formalizing lines of communication, including the above information

2.1.5 Communication

- Post online and/or circulate via email (to all staff, volunteers, officials and participants) the COVID-19 guidelines and plans in place at the competition
- Post online and/or circulate via email class times (including ride times, warm up schedule etc), course maps, patterns, order of go if applicable and results
- Use radio, phone, announcer system and online communication methods as much as possible and communicate important information frequently throughout the competition venue
- Conduct meetings via phone or webinar prior to competition for staff, volunteers and officials to review the COVID-19 plans and address questions. (MHC has offered use of its Zoom contract to all member clubs – please contact the MHC office for login details). A final operations review for facility/show organizers should be conducted no later than the Monday before competition
- Prepare a detailed layout of the venue including all arenas and warm up rings, stables/barns, wash racks etc. Highlight the COVID-19 guidelines in place at the venue and post on social media and circulate to all staff, volunteers, officials and participants. Organizer should work in conjunction with the hosting facility manager
- Post reminders of COVID-19 protocols throughout the site. In the event the venue has posted signage, it is recommended that additional signs may be posted in areas of higher traffic flows as may be identified. Post clear signage showing directions and Access/No Access points.
- Have a site plan showing locations for trailers and horses, with pull-up locations marked to ensure required distancing between trailers and horses. Include the site plan with the Mitigation Assessment
- Assign equipment to officials and volunteers for the duration of the competition (where possible)

2.1.6 Documentation

- Print and/or post online all competition documentation (i.e. dressage tests, score sheets, fence judge materials, competition/bib numbers, patterns, orders-of-go if applicable, stabling/barn maps) and create a method for virtual ribbons and awards (consider gift certificate options or year-end packages)

2.1.7 Sanitation

- Complete an extensive disinfection of the entire venue using disinfectant sprayers, this includes disinfecting all stables, offices, washrooms, venue equipment (including ring equipment, judge's booths, fence materials, trail equipment (if using) etc.)
- Provide hand sanitizing stations throughout the venue including at each competition arena and warm up ring/stabling/barn areas/washroom facilities etc.
- Place approved garbage bins throughout the venue for hygienic disposal of items. Remove garbage from the venue frequently if not renting the facility or ensure that there is an understanding between the facility management and competition committee
- Assign a washroom attendant or volunteer to ensure frequent cleaning and sanitizing of bathrooms if not renting the facility or ensure that there is an understanding between the facility management and competition committee
- Sanitize and disinfect all equipment before and after each use, ~~this includes~~ including radios, clocks, stop watches, whistles, computers, laptops etc.

- If using equipment that competitors must touch in the class (ie Western trail class) it must be sanitized between each competitor/team, or the element of the class must be discontinued according to national association directives

2.1.8 Protection

- Competition Manager to identify a COVID-19 Compliance Officer responsible for ensuring that guidelines put in place throughout the competition are being followed
- Install clear plastic, Plexiglas, or other type of protective shield/curtain in front of office staff or otherwise as needed to ensure that contact with office staff is minimized by pre-entry, phone and text conversations and social distance between office staff and office enquirers
- Have enough PPE including face masks, hand sanitizer and gloves for all staff, volunteers, and officials
- Have an isolation space to hold any symptomatic person found at the venue while awaiting patient transport to a medical facility
- Ensure you are following current Provincial guidelines

2.1.9 Physical Distancing

- Ensure that the competition timetable/class schedule allows for physical distancing requirements. Limit classes if necessary
- Install markers to delineate 2 meters spacing between people in the competition office, canteen, washrooms etc. (e.g. markers on floor/ground for people in line)

2.2 Competition Operations

2.2.1 Arrivals (Parking, Check-In etc.)

- Have entrance and exit routes clearly marked. A one-way system with separate entrance and exit route would be ideal, however if this is not possible then a stop/go system should be introduced
- Have entrance attendant(s) in place
- Check in via drive thru
 - Cross reference names of individuals arriving at the venue with the information provided on the competitor entries. This will assist in preventing the public accessing the venue as spectators
 - Entrance attendant(s) to ask everyone on arrival if they feel ill in any way, specifically listing certain symptoms, and send home those individuals that reporting feeling ill or experiencing symptoms. Signage to be posted describing symptoms (*Symptoms include mild to severe respiratory illness with fever, cough and difficulty breathing*). Entrance attendant(s) to collect Self Declaration forms
- For multi-day events, as competitors and support personnel are cleared for entry each day provide them with a coloured clearance wristband/ribbon for the day. A new/different coloured clearance wristband/ribbon should be required each day
- Horse arrivals (and passport checks if required) should be scheduled via appointment

2.2.2 Competition Office Guidelines

- Close the office to general walk-in
- Establish appointment times for individuals who need to come to the office
- Provide an 'in' door and an 'out' door (where possible)

- Place clear screens to protect staff
- Limit the number of people who can enter the competition office at one time
- Provide hand sanitizer at the door or assign an individual to provide sanitizer upon entry and exit
- Identify touch points that will require constant cleaning
- Secure an appropriately sized area with tape if there is no physical office

2.2.3 Washroom Guidelines (where the facility management does not assume this responsibility if renting)

2.2.3.1 Permanent Washroom Facilities

- Assign dedicated cleaning staff to disinfect washrooms on a set schedule throughout the day
- Clean after every use with disinfectant wipes
- Provide markers on floor/ground to mark 2 meters space for people in line
- Prepare hygiene stations with spray bottles of disinfectant, paper rolls, gloves etc.
- Use disposable paper towels, not hand driers or reusable towels

2.2.3.2 Portable Washroom Facilities

- Assign dedicated cleaning staff to disinfect washrooms on a set schedule throughout the day
- Provide markers on floor/ground to mark 2 meters spacing between people in line
- Set up hygiene and sanitation stations outside the washrooms

2.2.4 Stable/Barn Guidelines

- Close off stables/barns and restrict to competitors, grooms and essential support personnel i.e. coaches, trainers and vets
- Organize an attendant to control access to stables/barns
- Set up a stable/barn schedule and close the stables/barns during the night
- Set up a farrier station in a convenient location onsite (farriers should not need to access the stables)
- Provide hand sanitizing stations in and around the stabling/barn area
- If possible, organise stabling to avoid horses passing other horses/individuals in the aisles
- Keep the aisles clear (no tack/grooming trunks/carts, tables, chairs, hay/shavings or curtains) to allow for easy passage while maintaining distance. No grooming stalls or horses in the aisles on cross-ties
- Compartmentalize stabling to ensure physical distancing between each horse or each stable assignment (in cases of multiple entries from the same stable)

2.2.5 Wash Rack

- Maintain social distance while in line, entering/exiting and while using the wash rack
- Sanitize taps, spigots, hose ends (if shared)
- Clean up after your horse using your own shovel if possible

2.2.6 Competition Arena and Warm-up Ring Guidelines

- Utilize posted starting lists / orders of go

- Arrange judge's areas to comply with physical distancing requirements
- Restrict the number of horses in the warm-up ring, establish timetable to ensure that there is a minimum of 5 meters between horses at all times. Examples: staggered starts, assign opposite ends of arena for warm-up, competitor stations, markers visible to competitors for start and stop points, (e.g., visible spacing marks etc.) appropriate to the competition activity
- Restrict the number of people accompanying a horse to the competition arena (e.g. competitor, coach, trainer, groom, parent (if youth competitor)) and comply with physical distancing requirements
- Determine and communicate the maximum number of horses permitted in each competition area at one time in classes where competitors compete collectively (equitation/horsemanship and hack classes, western pleasure, hunter under saddle, halter, showmanship, team penning, etc), These numbers will be based on the size of the competition area and the physical distancing requirements)
- Closely monitor warm up rings for social distancing
- Mounted competitors should keep at least 5 meters apart when warming up
- Competitors should go straight back to their stall after their class/ride or if outdoors, their trailer, or if show and go, leave immediately
- Provide sanitizing stations at each competition ring and schooling/warm-up area and advise all to wipe down equipment after use and wear gloves while handling the equipment (includes jumps, cones, rails/logs, gates, bridges etc)
- Post signage about not leaving personal equipment or attire unattended

2.2.7 *Tack Check/Concerns in the Ring*

- Steward should always use PPE (face mask, gloves, hand sanitizer etc.) Judge and scribes should also consider usage of PPE
- Steward, judges and scribes should always maintain a 2 meter distance from the rider
- Judge/Steward should walk around the horse without touching the horse when conducting inspections
- If an issue is apparent, (blood, possible illegal equipment etc.) the rider should dismount (if not already dismounted) and move to an area that adheres to the physical distancing recommendations
- With the rider dismounted the Judge/Steward can proceed with the tack check
- If the Steward, TD or Judge discovers something of concern during a ride, they may, while maintaining physical distancing, inspect the horse or rider visually. They may call the Vet, Medical Personnel, TD or Competition Organizer for closer inspection of the horse or rider outside the arena
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2.2.8 *Prize Giving*

- There should be no formal awards ceremonies at the event
- All prizes of monetary value to be sent to the winners of the class by the organiser
- It is recommended that vouchers are obtained for those who receive prizes in kind
- No ribbons – limit risk of contamination

2.2.9 *Equine Medication Control*

- Assign the equine medication control testing stall/area in an easy to access, quiet area that does not require travel through the entire stabling area. It should be placed at the end of an aisle.
- Prepare and clean the testing stall/area and ensure it is ready with bedding by the start of competition. This will avoid any unnecessary contact/travel around the stabling area to prepare the area/stall.
- Prepare orders of go/class lists, parking passes, entrance bands, etc. ahead of time and have them ready in the office/at the entrance for easy pick up by the technician.
- Have horse recordings easily accessible.
 - Set an appointment time with the technician to be able to access this information
 - If it is electronic, provide log in information to technicians where possible so they can log in using their own device.
- Provide the technician with a cell number for an office staff member that they can call or text for contactless information sharing

3. Staff, Medical Personnel & Service Providers

3.1 COVID-19 Compliance Role

This section is intended to outline the role and duties of a COVID-19 Compliance Officer in line with the Province's recommendations to monitor physical distancing. This individual does not need to be a health care provider, but should be someone well versed in the risks, protocols, and symptoms. The role of a COVID-19 Compliance Officer is to monitor activities to ensure physical distancing and hygiene rules are being maintained to protect health and reduce the spread of COVID-19

- The COVID-19 Compliance Officer should be clearly recognisable and have a constant onsite presence to monitor compliance with physical distancing of 2 metres minimum between all participants. In instances where there is non-conformance with physical distancing the COVID-19 Compliance Officer is to intervene
- Maintain a log of regular monitoring of COVID-19 controls on site
- Ensure there is sufficient up to date signage erected onsite
- Ensure that regular cleaning of washroom facilities, handrails, door handles, etc. is undertaken and that hand wash liquid/soap and hand sanitizers are replenished as required
- Report any areas of non-compliance (violations of physical distancing, sanitation, personal hygiene, and symptom acknowledgment etc.) to Competition Organizer
- Inform Competition Organizer if there is a confirmed case or if they have been made aware of an individual with COVID-19 symptoms
- Ensure that an individual with symptoms is placed in an isolation room/segregated area away from other personnel until able to be removed from premises
- Assist health authorities in contact tracing should there be a confirmed case of COVID-19
- Ensure that Self Declaration sheets and contact tracing list is retained for 21 days and made available if required (can be the host facility or the event organiser's responsibility)

3.2 Competition Organizers, Staff, Volunteers and Officials

- Maintain physical distancing
- Communicate via radio only

- Use PPE including gloves, masks, and hand sanitizer etc.
- Stagger work hours and break times and discourage loitering
- Sanitize all equipment before and after each use
- Agree to all COVID-19 guidelines prior to competition

3.3 Service Providers & Vendors

- Any provided services must follow provincial/territorial guidelines
- For food vendors
 - Limit the number of people who can enter the food areas at one time
 - Provide hand sanitizer stations or assign an individual to provide sanitizer upon entry into the food court/zone
 - If food is in a building provide an ‘in’ door and an ‘out’ door (where possible)
 - Provide markers to delineate 2 meters spacing between people in the food court/zone (e.g. markers on floor/ground for people in line)
 - Protective screens placed protect catering staff
 - Consider a grab and go pre-packaged food option
- Advise any service providers to register on arrival (e.g. farrier, feed suppliers, waste disposal personnel) to take precautions in accordance with general Manitoba and specific facility regulations

4. Responsibilities of Competitors, Coaches, Trainers & Support Personnel

- Individuals are reminded that they are participating in competition at their own risk, they are liable and must take personal responsibility for the safety of others and themselves. Comply with all best practices and guidelines in effect at the competition
- Provide PPE to personal support staff
- Regularly sanitize carriages/bikes/motorbikes/golf carts/vehicle door handles, stable doors, bucket handles, light switches, etc., and equipment including tack, grooming, feeding, stall cleaning materials, etc.
- Do not share human or equine supplies, tack, towels, equipment or tack (including lead shanks etc.)
- Adhere to physical distancing guidelines
- Handwash frequently
- Cough and sneeze etiquette to be adhered to. Individuals who begin to cough/sneeze for any reason, should move away from others until coughing/sneezing dissipates
- Leave the competition venue litter free. All garbage to be taken home or disposed of in garbage bins
- Competitors are advised to leave the venue as soon as possible after their classes have concluded
- Strongly encourage all participants and competitors to wear PPE while on site if social distancing isn't possible. PPE may be worn when mounted and competitors will not be penalized if wearing PPE while in the ring. PPE is not mandatory.
- If a participant becomes sick within two weeks following a show they should contact the show organizer and indicate the events and dates that they were on site

5. Penalties for Non-Compliance

- At EC sanctioned competitions the Competition Organizer and/or an EC Steward/Technical Delegate has the authority to remove from the facility any person who does not comply with the regulations and requirements in effect at the competition. <https://www.equestrian.ca/programs-services/rules>
- At MHC-sanctioned or other non-sanctioned competitions the Compliance Officer has the authority to remove from the facility any person who does not comply with the regulations and requirements in effect at the competition.
- The COVID-19 Compliance Officer must report any occurrences of non-compliance to Competition Organizer. Competition Organizer has the authority to remove the individual from the facility. The circumstances of such removal should be documented by either the EC Steward /Technical Delegate in their report to EC, or the alternative provincial or national association as appropriate.
- In the event of repeated or flagrant non-compliance of an individual with regard to best practices and guidelines implemented by the competition organizer, thereby endangering themselves and others, competition management has the authority to refer the individual to the steward who is enabled, to bar the individual from the competition venue. The circumstances should be documented by (if an EC sanctioned event) the EC Steward /Technical Delegate in their report to the EC, or the alternative provincial or national association as appropriate.

Appendix 1; Discipline Specific Guidelines

Common sense would dictate that there will be many commonalities among disciplines. The following will note discipline specific activities, which may be updated from time to time.

Dressage and Para-Dressage Specific Guidelines

Physical Distancing

- Develop a plan for the flow of competitors and support personnel
 - Where possible, have separate entry and exit points to the competition zone and into warm up rings
 - For the competition arena make sure the previous rider has exited the area before the next competitor enters the arena
- Only one support person should accompany the horse and rider to the competition area (i.e. groom)
- The coach is to follow physical distancing requirements and use a headset to communicate with the rider during the warm up

Judges, Scribes, Judge's Booths

- Dressage judges should provide their own scribe from within their household to limit community transfer, if no scribe is available, either the judge should scribe for him/herself, or the scribe should sit in another vehicle or another judge's box with direct communication to judge via radio/headset
- Judges and scribes are to provide their own pens, notebooks etc. – no sharing of equipment
- If the judge's booth is big enough the Competition Organizer may consider installing Plexiglas or a heavy plastic divider
- PPE and hand sanitizer should be provided for each judge and scribe

Tests and Scores

- Consider using a software system to make judging tests a touchless system
- "Runners" (score collectors) should be provided with PPE and hand sanitizer
- Test sheets should be put in a paper folder and placed outside the competition or scoring office
- No paper tests should be given out at the competition. Dressage test sheets may be requested following the competition and sent via email
- There should be no main score board at the competition to discourage any physical gathering. Post scores online and circulate through email

Carers

- Specific to Para-Dressage competitors will provide their own carer ideally from within their household to limit community transfer.
- Carers must use PPE including face masks, gloves and hand sanitizer at all times

Eventing Specific Guidelines

- Competitions should be run as a short format / horse trials in the following order - dressage, show jumping, cross country
- Number of divisions should be restricted

A. Dressage Phase (see Dressage Guidelines above)

B. Jumping Phase

Warm Up

- Show jumping arena party must wear/change gloves regularly and sanitise often
- Show jumping warm up area to be managed to ensure no more than 5 mounted athletes are warming up at any one time and that a distance of 5 meters apart is adhered to
- Warm up jumps are to be 4 meters apart
- Area marked out for show jumping party/officials to stand behind
- A single steward in show jumping warm up to adjust fences
- Paper towels, disinfectant, detergent and water available to clean poles and cups

Show Jumping Round

- Athletes will have their show jumping time published on the website prior to the event
- Show jumping times must be used to ensure the event runs smoothly –
- Show jumping timing equipment must be managed by one person and the timing clock/start sanitised before the judge takes over
- Only the announcer should use the microphone, which will be disinfected before, during and after the event
- Show jumping judge should be the only one allowed to use the timing equipment
- Hand sanitizer to be used regularly
- Score collector to put score sheets in a plastic wallet at door scoring office (as per dressage/cross country)

C. Cross Country Phase

Fence Judge Briefing

- The TD briefs the fence judge briefing approximately one hour prior to start of cross country
- Depending on the number of fences/fence judges required and to ensure adequate physical distancing, the fence judge briefing may need to be done in two phases. If an assistant TD is available, two briefings could be done simultaneously
- As an alternative, briefing can be done via webinar prior to the competition

Cross Country Sectors

- In agreement with the TD, fence judges may be positioned in a way they can judge multiple fences. This is to limit the number of people on site but not to compromise safety of competitors
- The fence judge will radio Controller if a competitor went clear, has penalties or fell.
- Fence judge should bring their own pencils to mark supplied score sheets and their own lunch, beverages etc.

- Fence Judge's Score sheets should be picked up by one courier who should wear appropriate PPE (mask, gloves) – score sheets shall be stored in plastic sleeve and left by scoring office door

Control/Announcer

- Control and announcer normally sit in the same area
- Unless from the same household, physical distancing of 2 meter minimum should be observed
- There should be no sharing of equipment (ie: radio, microphone)
- Microphone should be disinfected before, during and after every use

Cross Country Timing

- Hand sanitizer station available at the Cross Country warm up /start box area
- Competitors should be limited in the warm up area to five with at least 5 meter between each horse
- Competitors will go cross country in strict numerical order

Scoring

- There should be no main score board at the competition to discourage any physical gathering. All results should be posted online
- There is to be one web scorer and one manual scorer. Unless from the same household, physical distancing of 2 meter minimum should be observed
- It is advised that a window should be open to allow fresh air to circulate
- Hand sanitizer should be available and used regularly
- No sharing of equipment
- All scoring queries should be raised to the TD within 30 minutes of the final result of that division being published and before the competitor leaves the competition. There should be no changes to results if a competitor has left the competition
- All scoring sheets are to be placed in a paper wallet outside the scorers office to prevent risk of contamination

Jumping (Hunter & Jumper) Guidelines

- The number of competition rings is dependent on the size of the competition venue and the ability of the venue to manage the physical distancing requirements and recommendations
- Only one support person should accompany the horse to the ringside (i.e. coach or groom)
- For specific stabling requirements refer to Section 2.2.4. Stable Guidelines
- There should be no jogs for hunters

Warm Up

- Competition arena staff should wear/change gloves regularly and sanitize often
- Warm up jumps are to be 5 meters apart and no more than one person at each
- Area should be marked for officials to stand behind
- Paper towels, disinfectant, detergent and water available to clean poles and cups by competition arena staff
- Waste container required to dispose of all soiled paper towels

- Masks are encouraged when social distance cannot be maintained, but are not mandatory

Jumping Rounds

- Recommend assigned ride time to help with monitoring of traffic around rings
- Timing equipment should be managed and sanitized by one person
- Judge should be the only one allowed to use the timing equipment once sanitized
- Only the announcer should use the microphone system, which should be disinfected before, during and after the competition

Polo Guidelines

- Polo will follow venue and participant guidelines above, as appropriate, noting that polo is always played outdoors on a large area
- Horse trailers will be spaced at an appropriate distance
- Non players, other than in a family unit, will be restricted from being around the trailers
- Four players on a team; two teams on the field, with one or two umpires
- Play will be modified to be non-contact, with hooking permitted. This modification will be reviewed week to week
- Only one horse will be allowed at the wash rack at a time with the next in line applying social distancing
- When not playing players will apply social distancing
- Few, if any spectators attend. Any spectators will be encouraged to watch from their car or to apply social distancing
- Bleacher will only be used where social distancing can be applied
- Players will be responsible to leave no garbage of any form on site.

Distance Riding/Competitive Trail Guidelines

- Registration table/tent to be marked with tape to maintain appropriate social distance
- Those waiting to register should maintain social distance
- PPE provided for vet checks with physical distancing maintained as much as feasibly possible
- Endeavor to limit numbers at checks as much as it is safe to do so
- Protect ride cards in zip lock bags and sanitize each time after use

Driving Guidelines

- Drivers must supply own navigators
- Limit number of cone setters (3 to 4)
- Dressage tests to be placed in sanitized zip lock bags – scores to be presented online only

- Marathon / course design should have one start/finish and allow for judge to have clear vision of entire obstacles (Review with MDS for Marathon course, for instance, one (steward) per obstacle, other volunteers to view from appropriate sidelines)
- Obstacle timer can assist from 10 feet away - time is put onto each sheet and each sheet is put into a large zip lock bag which is sanitized after each person has touched.
- Drivers and grooms riding on carriages should wear protective visors where possible as the physical distancing requirement cannot often be maintained, for safety reasons.

Western Discipline Guidelines

Events include, for example: Cutting, Reining, Ranch Horse, Team Penning, Cow Horse, All Around (Breed & Open), Barrel Racing, Western Style Dressage and Working Equitation

As well as the cross-discipline guidelines in the body of this document, Western disciplines noted above may also receive guidance from their National or Breed Association in terms of ringside and in-show activity.

For instance, the American Quarter Horse Association has changed their rules that in Trail and Versatility Ranch Horse Trail, the gate is waived as a mandatory obstacle. In Open, Cowboy and Amateur VRH Ranch Trail, the obstacle drag is waived. In the event of contradicting guidelines, Manitoba Provincial Health guidelines will overrule a national or Breed Association's rules.

In events involving cattle, clubs will note their own protocols for movement of animals and the sanitization of gates, fences, etc. Cattle to be moved with the minimum safe number of handlers.

Appendix 2; Federal and Provincial Guideline links

All links will be posted to MHC website on the Competitions page, to be available for general usage

Government of Canada

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/coronavirus-disease-covid-19.html>

Government of Manitoba

<https://www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/index.html>

Government of Manitoba

https://manitobahorsecouncil.ca/Downloads/Events%20and%20Competitions/MB_Risk_Assessment_and_Mitigation_Tool.pdf

Appendix 3; Printable Posters and Signage

- **Stop, do not enter if:** https://www.gov.mb.ca/asset_library/en/coronavirus/COVID-19-poster-1.pdf
- **Self-Declaration / Waiver:** https://manitobahorsecouncil.ca/Downloads/Events%20and%20Competitions/2020_Sample_COVID_19_Self_Declaration_Waiver.pdf
- **Should I get tested?** <https://sharedhealthmb.ca/files/covid-19-get-tested-fact-sheet-eng.pdf>
- **Physical distancing** <https://sharedhealthmb.ca/files/respect-distancing-poster-eng.pdf>
- **Precautions to follow** <https://sharedhealthmb.ca/files/precautions-to-follow-letter.pdf>
- **Keep your distance** <https://sharedhealthmb.ca/files/covid-19-testing-site-social-distance-8.5-x-11.pdf>
- **Handwashing protocol** <https://sharedhealthmb.ca/files/hand-hygiene.pdf>
- **Hand hygiene** https://sharedhealthmb.ca/wp-admin/admin-ajax.php?juwpfisadmin=false&action=wpfd&task=file.download&wpfd_category_id=320&wpfd_file_id=5079&token=c41ea8c5574c5cdbc2031928e85bd829&preview=1

Also available from Sport Manitoba, with space for club or association logo:

- Hand Sanitizer Large; Hand Sanitizer Small;
- Hand Washing Large; Hand Washing Small;
- Physical Distancing Large; Physical Distancing Small;
- Self Screen Large; Self Screen Small