

Return to Competition Frequently Asked Questions

FAQ	Response
Do the Return to Competition protocols affect other events?	Yes. We recommend that for any event such as a clinic where people from different areas are congregating for more than a few hours, that you prepare a COVID plan to ensure peace of mind for attendees.
Who works out the COVID plan for a show?	The plan should be worked out between the show organizer, COVID Compliance Officer and the Host facility. Once complete, the option is forward to MHC where it will be held in confidence in case of COVID activity arising from the event. MHC will not vet plans, but it gives a central location if the province has queries.
Do you have a template for a COVID plan?	A sample checklist for planning an event is on MHC's web page, under "Competitions". Daily checklists for organizers, participants etc., are also listed, although each organiser may wish to collate their own checklist because of the wide variety of events held across the province. The Return to Competition protocols document also form a detailed checklist.
Is the Steward responsible for COVID compliance monitoring?	Each event should have a COVID Compliance Officer appointed who will work with the Event Organizer and Host Facility to ensure protocols are clear to participants. The Steward's responsibility arises if there is an EC rule infraction. The Steward MAY assist with COVID infractions, and should certainly note such in their report to EC.
Are spectators allowed at events?	Return to Competition protocols were provided for show organizers to run their events; spectator number advice is given by the province and may change as the situation progresses. At the time of writing (July 14, 2020) the allowance is 50 people indoors, 100 people outdoors. "People at the event" includes EVERYONE. It's recommended that the Show Organizer work with the facility, as the facility may have received 'zoning' approvals from the province which, pending the number of officials/volunteers/exhibitors/support team, may allow for spectators under social distancing requirements.
I hear that some locations have more than 100 people. How can that happen?	Some large locations have the ability to split areas to ensure groups cannot mingle. The Harness Racing location in Miami is a good example. Their grandstand can be split to hold two groups (bubbles) of 100 spectators each without commingling, and still social distance. In that location the spectators are separate from up to 100 entrants, volunteers, officials, grooms etc. The Keystone Centre also has the ability to keep barns, arena, hallway etc., separate from each other and therefore increase the attendance numbers. Event organizers should work closely with host facilities to work out their plans.
What should an organizer do with the attestations and waivers for each event?	Attestations should be kept by the event organizer for 21 days, then can be destroyed if no COVID cases arise. All waivers should be kept for three years, and as MHC recognises that volunteer boards can change over time, they will provide the service of storing these in confidence for clubs for the requisite time. A cover sheet for the bundle is on the Competitions page of the website
Does warm-up/haul-in day count as a show day for waivers and attestations?	Yes, the event is marked as starting at the time the grounds open for exhibitors to arrive. Attestations and waivers should start to be collected from that day.
Where do I submit the COVID plan for my event?	To the MHC office. MHC does not review/approve your plan, but acts as a central archive in case of query by the province. Please use the confidential fillable Document Cover form in the Useful Documents section of our Competitions web page.
Do I have to submit a COVID plan for each event this year?	Yes. But if it is at the same location, use your first plan as a template and only note any differences.
Do our Club members still have to have Competition insurance for the remainder of this year?	Yes, if they are entering a show or competition. If a member took out a Recreation membership previously, it can be upgraded online for \$22 (\$11 for Youth). We remind clubs that ALL their members should also have an MHC membership of some level to meet the overall requirements of the Club's insurance.
I run a private facility and sometimes hold shows. Do I have to comply with the RTC protocols?	Yes, as far as they apply to the size of your facility and the type of show you are planning.
I use my home arena for friends to have friendly/non-competitive events. Do I still need a COVID plan?	Yes, they should still have a COVID plan for the safety of people coming on the property. While the province has set MHC as their communication channel for COVID equestrian activities, private persons and non-affiliated groups should still work within the provincial protocols approved for equestrian activities.
If I rent a facility for an event, who do I need to include in calculating the number allowed on premises?	Everyone. Tractor driver, concession staff, gate volunteers, grooms, coaches, trainers, officials.... As of June 21 the numbers allowed are 50 people indoors, 100 people outdoors but please check with the facility you are renting as they may have an independent COVID plan approved by the province to allow zoning. https://www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/restoring/phase-three.html for any updates.

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<p>Under 2.2.4 Stable/Barn Guidelines, it states that grooming stalls are not permitted. What is the associated foreseeable risk that led to this specific guideline?</p>	<p>This paragraph refers to shared grooming stalls when people would take turns to use a single grooming stall at events where stall space is limited. The risk is of the stall facilities not being sanitized between uses, and a relaxation of social distancing and PPE use. Allowances may be made for a 'bubble' to share a grooming stall for their bubble, bearing in mind social distancing protocols.</p>
<p>How does anyone not affiliated with MHC find out about the protocols.</p>	<p>MHC's website is the main repository for documents and advice. Until Return to Competitions was approved everything was on the home page but now there is so much to share, please look on www.manitobahorsecouncil.ca/competitions We have also been utilising Facebook (MHC home page, Prairie Horses and a number of other group pages) and member newsletters to get the word out. If you don't seem to receive MHC newsletters, please check your junk mail and then add us to your approved email list for the future. We have also had two "open" Council of Clubs Zoom meetings to advise club representatives of progress, and for them to pass information on to their members.</p>
<p>Why wouldn't it be the facilities' responsibility to monitor attendance? For example, the Keystone Center which has multiple events?</p>	<p>The Keystone rarely holds its own equine events; groups rent the facility from them so it is the renter who has the responsibility to monitor attendance. We suggest very strongly that event organizers work closely with hosting facilities to ensure all elements are complied with.</p>
<p>Who was involved in preparing and finalizing the 19 page document?</p>	<p>The basic structure came from Equestrian Canada (hence the "gold standard" level) but since Manitoba moved towards Return to Competition much earlier than any other province, it was decided to take their fourth draft (which finished with #11) and focus on Manitoba activities. While MHC's office staff did the bulk of the work, MHC's Board and member clubs also had input to the document.</p>
<p>How will the Province know whether an event is recognized by Horse Council?</p>	<p>The Province won't; but since MHC was the organisation which prepared and submitted the Return to Plan and Return to Competition documents, MHC will be their first port of call if there is an issue. Any competition which goes on in the province and is not sanctioned by Equestrian Canada is considered by the province to be "provincially sanctioned".</p>
<p>Who appoints the COVID Representative to monitor the show. Government or MHC?</p>	<p>Neither. It is group which puts on the event which appoints a COVID Compliance Officer (or Inspector) for an event. This person should not be a competitor; their full time job at the event is ensuring COVID compliance of attendants. MHC asked for a COVID representative from each club to be the recipient of COVID information, the person at the show could be this person but it is a big responsibility and should not be devolved on someone who does not have the knowledge and confidence to work with people in awkward situations.</p>
<p>Paragraph 2.1.3 limited access to owners. Are they allowed in the barn? Ringside?</p>	<p>Owners should be counted within the overall site numbers and unless they have an 'essential service' position, they should be low on the list when calculating attendance numbers. Barn access should be limited with those who have essential service positions with regards to the horse or the minor rider.</p>
<p>Can the Covid Rep also be a competitor or do they need to be dedicated to monitoring?</p>	<p>The COVID Compliance Officer should be a full-time position, and would be a conflict of interest to join this in with Show Secretary, official or competitor, etc. Larger events may consider hiring a Compliance Officer. It is recommended that this individual be fully vetted and familiar with the COVID-19 protocols set out by the province as well as those described in the RTC document, the show organization and the hosting facility.</p>
<p>In the introduction to the Return to Competition protocols it's stated, "<i>We ask that organizers treat these guidelines as gold standard for all events regardless of size, and apply whichever practices fit your event.</i>" I can imagine our typical events and apply the practices that are appropriate. But the message I am hearing is that the entire protocols are to be applied to ALL shows.</p>	<p>Correct. Whilever the province is under COVID health restrictions, events of any size from a small at-home fun event to a major multi-ring activity should produce a COVID plan to safeguard participants, and follow through on the attestations, waivers, signage and sanitizing protocols.</p>
<p>There is a discrepancy between the expectations for using PPE of competition and barn staff (organizers, officials, volunteers...), versus the expectations of competitors and others on the field of play. Competition staff and other related people must wear and use PPE, whereas it is only suggested that competitors and trainers do the same. What is the reason for this discrepancy, especially given the new research indicating that airborne transmission (droplet spray or aerosol) is actually the primary vector of transmission?</p>	<p>The Return to Competition protocols is a document fixed in time, whereas day-to-day health knowledge about COVID is growing and changing. When the document was written, mask use was not being recommended at the levels it is today. It is inherent on the COVID Compliance Officer for the event to be aware of current health requirements at the time of the event.</p>

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<p>With the self declaration, is asking the questions and recording a name sufficient? Or does a physical document need to be filled out?</p>	<p>The full documents (attestations and waivers) should be signed by each person attending the event (whether participant, volunteer, officer, volunteer, staff etc.) either as hard copy or digitally. While waivers can be submitted with online event entries, the health attestations should be signed the day of the event. MHC has provided fillable PDFs on the Competitions web page. The only attendees not required to fill out formal attestations and waivers would be spectators who were totally separate from the competition activity, but a health declaration would still be required at point of entry.</p>
<p>MHC said they would store attestations and waivers. Do individual clubs need to keep any records at all? And when do you want the forms for storage. Will there be proof that clubs have submitted forms for storage?</p>	<p>Clubs should keep the Attestations (Health Declarations) for a minimum of 21 days after each event. They can then be destroyed if no COVID related events arise. Waivers should be kept for a minimum of 2 years, and MHC can store these documents for clubs and non-affiliated groups. Records can be paper or digital, and submitted with the declaration provided on MHC's Competitions web page. The form can be used for a formal pre-event COVID plan, and added to when documents are submitted post-event. The club can keep a copy of the submission document as proof of documents being stored. Digital records and/or hard copies should be submitted within 2 weeks of each event.</p>
<p>Do spectators have to fill out these forms?</p>	<p>Yes. Everyone attending the site and involved with the event should complete the Attestations (daily) and Waivers (per event). It is for the attendees own safety so that contact tracing can be carried out if there is a COVID incident associated with anyone who attends the event. The only attendees not required to fill out formal attestations and waivers would be spectators who were totally separate from the competition activity, but a health declaration (could be verbal or assumed by posting signage) would still be required at point of entry.</p>
<p>Is there a risk to the Board of a club when taking responsibility for events during COVID-19. Does the club insurance give a guarantee of protection?</p>	<p>Through membership of MHC, member clubs have access to an optional Director's and Officer's Liability Insurance. This is a policy which responds to law suits resulting from a bodily injury (which includes COVID) or property damage in which the complainant feels that the club bears some responsibility. Examples of claims could be; negligence of account procedures and mishandling of funds; personal benefit by a Director; jeopardizing tax-exempt status; interest that should have been collected and distributed; failure to adopt and implement appropriate safety and operational procedures at a facility causing the facility to be shut down by regulators, etc. A Fact Sheet and Application are available at https://manitobahorsecouncil.ca/Club-Memberships, or more information can be discussed by calling CapriCMW at 1-800-670-1877</p>
<p>Will there be some sort of subsidy to cover costs of sanitizing supplies?</p>	<p>As with any activity, price of entry would normally be calculated to cover expenses. There are no federal or provincial subsidies to cover COVID expenses for recreational activities, however, Manitoba Horse Council has access to Program Support funds for its member clubs (previously Lottery & Liquor support). For 2020 each club was able to apply for two grants covering two 6-monthly periods of the year. Since applications for the 1st 6-month period would have covered events and activities which mostly have not been able to take place, MHC is providing \$350 per club for "Program Support" regardless of the original application. The Program Support could cover COVID expenses during the year. The application for the second tranche of Program Support funds is due August 17 (extended date), and some clubs may wish to revise existing applications.</p>
<p>What if there's a barrel racing event indoors and a Hunter/Jumper event outdoors? Can the facility have 50 indoors and 100 outdoors?</p>	<p>That is likely, and we recommend that any event organizer works closely with the host facility to work out how the events can take place and still keep the numbers separate. Larger event locations will have worked directly with the province to provide COVID plans to meet occupancy and other safe standards.</p>