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This document represents a compilation of responses the RMTC received from regulatory veterinarians at racetracks currently conducting race meets or those making plans to open in the near future.

As with all response plans, there are site-specific factors that must be considered. Each race meeting is unique and will require a thoughtful approach to establishing practical and effective measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19. The information provided is being used, or is under consideration, by others and is not intended as a mandate.

In general, it is preferable to take the time to educate individuals on the importance of responsibly engaging in infection control practices—and convince them it is in their best interest to do so. A heavy-handed approach may result in compliance only when an individual believes he or she is being observed—to the risk of those who may then come in contact with them.

General considerations:

- Face masks worn by all individuals in the stable area. Masks washed daily.
- Hand washing or hand sanitizing stations established at barn and building entrances and other potentially high-traffic areas.
- Bilingual signage regarding social distancing (including floor or wall markings where applicable).
- Eliminate communal areas or use scheduling to decrease population density.
- Train security personnel on implementing/enforcing social distancing requirements.
- Daily health checks prior to accessing stable area—temperature and brief health questionnaire.
- Use of wrist bands to designate wearer has undergone daily access protocol and has been approved.
- Establish adequate disposal facilities for gloves and other disposable PPE—not general refuse containers.
- Doors kept open where possible—improved ventilation=virus dilution AND reduced contact with doorknobs/push plates.
- Reinforce importance of personal hygiene measures (e.g. coughing into crook of the arm, no spitting, use of tissue when blowing one's nose).

Stakeholder information:

- Assign equipment to individuals to avoid contacts by multiple individuals

- Disinfect or wash with soap and water shared equipment or high-contact areas—daily or more often as indicated.
- Minimize staff on-site; conduct as much business as possible remotely/electronically.
- Minimize barn-to-barn movement of personnel; handwashing implemented if inter barn movement cannot be avoided.
- Heightened alertness to employee health—unwell workers stay home/sent home.
- Importance of proper application of face mask—nose and chin covered.
- Importance of washing cloth masks daily.
- For barns housing multiple trainers it may be advisable to designate trainer-specific employee entry/exit sites in the barn.

Disinfection practices:

COVID-19 is an envelope virus and is readily destroyed by soap, alcohol (min 70%), UV radiation, dilute bleach solutions, and routine disinfectants. The virus is able to persist for 3-2 days on non-porous surfaces (e.g. stainless steel, glass, countertop material.) Time between contact should not alone be considered a sufficient decontamination protocol.

- Use paper towels for cleaning. Avoid reusable cloths, sponges, towels.
- Bleach solutions are stable for no more than 24 hours. Make fresh solution each day.
- Link to disinfectants effective against COVID-19. Note duration of contact required for disinfection: <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2>
- UV light wands can be used for surfaces not amenable to moisture—e.g. computers—or in sample processing areas where the introduction of foreign substances into the environment could be used to raise questions about sample integrity.

Race-related activities:

Pre-race exams

- When possible, conduct exam out of stall in area with improved ventilation/air flow.
- Attendant to stand on opposite side of horse from examining vet.
- Gloves may not be practical as they may impede examining vet's ability to detect heat. In that case apply hand sanitizer between horses and wash hands with soap and water as frequently as possible.
- Do not use cloth towel for wiping hands between exams.

TCO₂ testing

- Eliminate horse attendant's signature as requirement for sample ID card. Sampling veterinarian to visually inspect license and record number to record witness' presence. Alternatively, use cell phone camera to document events as warranted.

On track

- Frequent disinfection of high-contact areas (e.g. starting gate, gap rails)
- Disinfection of horse ambulance between deployments. Keep upper doors/windows open (where possible) to improve ventilation/virus dilution
- Distancing practices in chase vehicles—single passenger in right rear seat

Test Barn Practices

- Maintain communication with Stewards/Judges with respect to human and horse density in the Test Barn and any potential need to amend number of horses submitted for post-race testing
- Face masks for all individuals in the enclosure
- Gloves for Test Barn personnel; change between horses or samples (May be useful to review appropriate gloving/degloving protocols to avoid contamination during process)
- Plexiglass barriers (with cut outs at benchtop level to slide paperwork though) in work area between sample processing area and individuals observing and signing for samples
- Floor markings where relevant
- Disinfection of pens, clipboards between each use.
- Horsemen to use totes or carry-all bags for equipment (e.g. halters, lead shanks, coolers/blankets)—which is either on the horse or in the bag.
- Limit access to 2 attendants per horse (1 is likely sufficient for harness racing).
- Eliminate communal seating areas or designate appropriate distancing for use of benches.
- Claimants to wait outside enclosure until horse is ready for transfer.
- Disinfection of equipment between each use: cross ties, water buckets, Test Barn tags, urine collection sticks, hoses, and water spigots.
 - Test Barn tags (applied at unsaddling to designate horses to be tested) individually bagged with snap sticking out. Horse's attendant pulls tag out of bag and affixes it to the bridle.
- If attendants are required to surrender licenses/badges upon arrival at Test Barn, use individual plastic bins where license can be deposited and retrieved without contact by other Test Barn personnel. Bins disinfected between uses.
- Maintain accurate logs (time in/time out) of all personnel (Commission and association employees and trainer's representatives) accessing the Test Barn to facilitate contact tracing should an individual subsequently test positive for COVID-19.