

## **Equestrians Institute Dressage Action Plan Covid-19 Mitigation**

The Equestrians Institute is dedicated to ensuring the safety and welfare of horses and participants at our 2021 Dressage shows. While there is no way to eliminate all risks related to COVID-19, this Action Plan identifies the requirements and recommendations that must be followed while participating in EI Dressage events.

The EI Dressage Action Plan addresses and meets the mandatory requirements provided by our national governing bodies – the United States Equestrian Federation (USEF) & United States Dressage Federation (USDF) – and mandatory requirements by our local, state and federal agencies. In addition, the action plan is guided by World Health Organization (WHO) and Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommendations and implements all USEF recommended Best Practices. When differences in requirements were identified, the more restrictive regulations are implemented. The EI Dressage Board will monitor local, regional, and federal guidelines and modify this plan to reflect changes. The WHO Mass Gathering for Sports Risk Assessment Tool identifies the EI Dressage shows as low risk when utilizing the planning and protocols outlined in this plan.

Equestrians Institute competitions are following this action plan. All participants, organizers and support persons must agree to abide by the protocols identified in this plan to mitigate COVID-19 risk at EI events. We are confident that together we can successfully implement these protocols.

Contact information for use during the show will be included in packets and on signage throughout the event location.

### **Requirements:**

- All participants, including licensed officials, competitors, designated volunteers, trainers, personnel essential for horse care, and a single designated parent/guardian for a minor competitor must provide emergency contact information and complete the *Waiver and Release of Liability, Assumption of Risk and Indemnity Agreement* as a condition of participation. Spectators will be allowed as per King County COVID-19 Phase requirements at the time of events to ensure we do not exceed maximum allowable total number of people present. This information will be included in the individual event materials.
- Signage – COVID-19 applicable informational and safety materials will be posted throughout the facility for the duration of the event. This will include applicable CDC, federal, state and local regulations and requirements and guidelines that are in effect at the event. USEF and CDC posters regarding masks, physical distancing, and

signs/symptoms of COVID-19.

- Communication – Multiple measures are in place to ensure effective communication before and during the competitions.
  - Pre-competition: prior to the show, all participants, officials, and competition personnel will be notified of the protocols and safeguards being implemented for their protection against spread of COVID-19. Updates and competition information will be included in prize lists, schedules, social media and pushed emails.
  - During competition: phone, online, facility PA system, and radio communication methods will be utilized to communicate between show officials and to participants to reduce face-to-face contact.
  - Athletes and trainers can check results of classes, ride times and live scorings in at fox village <https://www.foxvillage.com/>.
  - A communication and notification process will be in place for all athletes, coaches, and event staff in the event the organizers/medical personnel learn of a suspected or confirmed case of Covid-19 at the event.
- Access, screening, and monitoring:
  - Every person entering the event grounds will have their temperature taken upon arrival. Temperatures will be taken daily. Anyone with a body temperature 100.4 or higher may not enter the grounds (skin scan temperature of 99.5).
  - Every person entering grounds must attest that they:
    - do not have symptoms consistent with COVID-19;
    - have not tested positive for COVID-19 in past 10 days;
    - have not been exposed to or been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19 symptoms or has tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 14 days unless they are fully vaccinated and at least 14 days post their final vaccine dose.
  - If you develop symptoms consistent with COVID-19, including but not limited to fever, cough, fatigue, muscle aches, congestion, sore throat, headache, loss of taste or smell, during the event, you must immediately separate yourself from others and report to the safety coordinator, show manager or show office by calling or texting the number distributed in the advance of the show.
  - Anyone who tests positive for COVID-19 within 14 days of the conclusion of the competition, must immediately notify the Competition Organizer who will coordinate notification of the USEF and local public health authorities.
- Personal protective equipment (PPE) – all staff, officials, volunteers, service providers and participants must wear a mask always covering their mouth and nose while on the

competition grounds when not mounted on a horse. Organizers will provide masks for staff, volunteers, and officials if necessary. Participants are required to provide their own masks.

- To eat or drink, you must move at least 6 feet away from any other individual before lowering your mask. You must replace mask over your mouth and nose when finished eating or drinking.
- *In-Hand Class Procedures* - face masks or face coverings that fully cover your nose and mouth are always required at USEF-licensed competitions, including while exhibiting horses and ponies in-hand. However, if absolutely necessary, you may lower your mask while jogging or running with a horse or pony in-hand, or while executing a pattern, but only if you are able to maintain social distancing of at least six feet while doing so. The mask must be replaced immediately once the jog, or run, or pattern, is completed. A participant cannot be disqualified or penalized for wearing a facemask or face covering while competing.
- If you require modification of the mask requirement, **you** must submit a written request, accompanied by documentation substantiating the need for modification to [sgilbert@usef.org](mailto:sgilbert@usef.org) in advance of the event. Please note USEF is experiencing a high volume of legal inquiries and will respond as quickly as possible. You will be required to show written approval by USEF to have an accommodation and modification of the mask requirement while on the show grounds.
- Physical Distancing – All individuals must practice physical distancing while on the competition grounds. You must stay 6 feet (2 arm’s length) away from anyone who is not a member of your immediate household.
  - Physical distancing requirements will be enforced.
  - USEF stewards and technical delegates will inform individuals when they are not in compliance with the regulations and requirements in effect at the competition and shall report such situations to the competition organizer. The competition organizer has the authority under GR 702.1 and GR914 to remove from the facility any person who does not comply with the regulations and requirements in effect at the competition. Stewards/TD must report the removal of any person from competition grounds for non-compliance with regulations and requirements in effect in their USEF Steward/TD delegate report.
  - EI events will be using paperless entry and electronic scoring and results to further reduce person-to-person contact.
  - Judges, scribes, and other competition officials must maintain 6-foot distancing. When this is not possible, a solid, non-porous securely attached divider will be positioned to create a protective barrier between individuals.
- Cleaning/Sanitizing Locations: Alcohol based hand sanitizers will be available at multiple

locations. Participants are encouraged to wash hands often throughout the day.

- Hand sanitizers will be provided to all officials, ring crew, office staff and volunteers.
- Hand sanitizers will be located at multiple sites.
- The judge's booths are fitted with plexiglass dividers and the booths will be sanitized twice daily and/or as personnel change.

### **Competition, schooling and exercise areas:**

- Ride times will be posted in advance of the show. The schedule will also be posted online and near the show office in such a way that social distancing can be maintained.
- The ride times at [www.foxvillage.com](http://www.foxvillage.com) will be kept up to date to give exhibitors information regarding the status of the in gate and their show time.
- Each arena will have separate entrances and exits, so that horses and riders are not passing each other. Please take note as where the entrance and exits are in the competition and warm up arenas.
- The large indoor arena warm up will be limited to a maximum of 5 horse/rider pairs at a time. The large outdoor arena warm up will be limited to a maximum of 10 horse/rider pairs at a time.
- The number of people accompanying a horse to the ring will be restricted to essential personnel.
- Competitors will access their results/score sheets online at fox village. Awards will be available at the outdoor show office.
- In classes where riders compete collectively, we will determine and communicate to participants the maximum number of horses permitted in each competition area at one time based on the size of the competition areas and physical distancing requirements.
- Mounting blocks will be available in schooling areas to avoid one-to-one contact between riders and grooms/assistants.
- Areas around riding arenas will be organized to comply with physical distancing requirements. There will be no designated seating areas around the arenas.

### **Stabling Area:**

- Horses will be grouped by rider or stabling group. The stalls will be cleaned prior to competitor/horse arrival at the show grounds.
- The horses will be spaced in the barns to support physical distancing. Face masks must be worn in the stabling area.
- Wheelbarrows, water buckets, hoses and feed must be supplied by individuals – do not share.
- Stall bedding – initial bedding is provided with stall set up. All additional bedding requests should be communicated via text message with the entry secretary (see number above).
- Wash stalls will be available for use in a manner that maintains physical distancing policy. Please plan to clean and prep horse in stall.

- Access to the stabling area is restricted to veterinarians, athletes, officials, grooms, trainers and other essential personnel.

#### **Show Office:**

- The show office will be in an outdoor location and configured to support physical distancing. Access will be restricted to essential personnel only. Rider packets will be distributed in a manner that minimizes personal contact.
- There will be signs for entering and exiting the show office. Please follow flow and do not congregate. If a line develops, maintain 6-foot distancing.
- Entries and necessary paperwork will be processed online. All necessary paperwork can be done online including entering a competition, add/scratch, billing, and invoicing. For questions, contact the entry secretary by text or email (see above).
- If entries need to be limited, EI will notify USEF and information regarding stabling and entries will be posted on the competition website or in the prize list.
- EI will publish their policy regarding entry refunds within the prize list.
- Limited food vendors will be present and will follow all King County regulations for food preparation.

#### **Adverse weather protocol:**

- No sheltering in competition tents around facility.
- Everyone will need to shelter in their own vehicles.
- The event will go on hold with as much advance notice with weather warning to allow participants to properly shelter and maintain physical distancing. An announcement will be provided prior to resuming of the event.

#### **Emergency Response Plan:**

The Equestrians Institute Emergency Response Plan identifies the specific actions that will be taken if a COVID-19 situation occurs during or after a competition. It specifically identifies local medical resources and addresses outbreak protocols including medical evaluation, isolation, quarantine and reporting as required by the USEF and USDF.

#### **Emergency Personnel Names and Contact Information:**

All competition staff and volunteers will have a list of emergency phone numbers on hand and these numbers will be posted throughout the competition grounds.

During show hours:

- Competition manager
- Show Office
- Covid-19 Compliance Officer

After show hours:

- Covid/Health Related Emergency services (including Fire Department, Ambulance, Paramedics and Police) – call 9-1-1. Identify yourself as located at the Donida Farm

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Equestrian Facility. Remind authorities to turn off sirens when approaching the facility.

Participants are required to self-monitor their temperature once daily prior to entering the competition grounds – bring a thermometer for yourself unless you want to share with your horse! Anyone who has a body temperature 100.4 or higher, may not enter the competition grounds (if using skin scan, temperature 99.5 or above). Additionally, anyone who answers yes to any of the following may not enter the competition grounds:

- Exhibits COVID-19 symptoms
- Has tested positive for COVID-19 within last 10 days
- Has tested positive for COVID-19 outside of the past 10 days but is still symptomatic, or
- Has been in close contact (within 6 feet for more than 15 minutes in a 24-hour period) with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 14 days.

Participants are required to self-monitor for onset of symptoms consistent with COVID-19 or temperature 100.4 or higher while on the competition grounds. If symptoms develop, an individual must immediately:

- Immediately isolate oneself away from others
- Notify Show Office, Show Manager, or COVID-19 Compliance Officer
- If the individual can travel independently, they should immediately leave the show grounds and go home to isolate.
- If the individual is unable to travel independently and immediately leave the competition grounds, the individual must remain in an isolation area away from others until transportation can be arranged.
- The onsite EMT will assess and triage if medical care is necessary.

Show organizers will immediately assess the situation and do the following:

- Shutdown area(s) where infected person was for deep sanitation.
- Assess the potential extent/risk of exposure to others.
- Review accurate sign in/symptom log to assist in contact tracing.
- If confirmed positive case, notify local health officials within 24 hours to establish a site-specific response plan and to make decisions regarding competition delays, suspensions and facility closures.
- If confirmed case, communicate to all participants, the USEF and the USDF.

After the event:

Any participant must immediately notify the show organizers if they test positive for COVID-19 within 14 days of the conclusion of the competition.

EI will notify USEF, all participants and competition staff if a person who was present on the competition grounds tests positive for Covid-19 within 14 days of the conclusion of competition.

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## Resources:

- Center for Disease Control: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
- U.S. Equestrian Federation Covid-19 Tool-Kit: <https://www.usef.org/media/Covid19-toolkit>
- Access Washington - <https://access.wa.gov/>
- Equestrians Institute - <http://www.einw.org/>
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