

## Endurance Riders of Alberta

### Covid-19 Response Plan

#### I. Ride Managers (receive entire document)

##### Guidance for Conducting ERA Sanctioned Events During COVID-19

ERA has compiled, from various sources, and developed the following guidelines to mitigate potential impact from COVID-19. ERA remains committed to ensuring safety and welfare of horses and people at sanctioned rides. These guidelines are provided to Ride Managers, veterinarians and participants to help control exposure to and transmission of infectious disease during the pandemic. These guidelines are intended to supplement local, provincial and federal orders. They are based on currently advised practices and do not replace recommendations made by *Alberta Health Services, Government of Alberta, Government of Canada, or other health authorities*. Ultimately, it is the responsibility of the individual to determine if participating at an ERA event is in the best interest of their personal health.

##### Ride Manager Guidelines

The following guidelines are not meant to be all-inclusive. Ride managers, in partnership with their veterinarians, must ensure they are meeting the intent of the guidelines as they apply to the ride manager's specific event. In the event of a discrepancy between these guidelines and local, provincial or federal policies, the ride manager must first and foremost follow local, provincial and federal guidance.

Ride Organizers will provide a Covid-19 plan to the ERA Sanctioning Director for their individual ride. This plan will be developed to make it specific to your ride and ride site, and will address all concerns and points as listed in this document. Sanctioning of the ride will be dependent on the Ride Organizer's ability to implement Covid-19 safety guidelines.

If Ride Organizers are not able to meet the minimum expectations of these guidelines, then they may want to take into consideration what would be in the best interest of the sport, and its members, and postpone the ride until the minimum standards can be met.

Consider minimizing the number of crew and volunteers, while ensuring you have enough volunteers to mitigate congregation of riders.

Land Owner Agreements must be completed and signed. You need to work closely with owners to see what their mandates might be. If it is federal land, you will be subject to federal mandates, as well as provincial and local ones.

Check with your local authorities to determine if overnight accommodations are permitted.

- Volunteer, veterinarian, and staff accommodations must be limited to family cohort groups, individual disinfected trailers, volunteers providing their own accommodations or being willing to drive back and forth to the venue daily. This will be planned with the Ride Organization committee.

Post signage listing ride precaution guidelines in all common areas and provide in rider packets. These guidelines can be printable posters from the Government of Alberta <https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/topics/Page17000.aspx> , regardless, this information must be posted. (<https://www.canada.ca/en/pub/health/services/diseases/coronavirus-disease-covid-19.html> and <https://www.alberta.ca/covid-19-information.aspx> are also useful sites.) *The ERA has laminated posters available for posting at ride site.*

Ride Organizers will be updated of all current changes to the COVID-19 local, provincial and federal policies by the ERA President, who will alert the Ride Manager and Organizers immediately to any changes.

- Prior to accepting entries, ride managers will know the specific number of volunteers, veterinarians, etc. who will be in attendance at the ride site, to be included in total gathering numbers as outlined by Alberta Health Services. Because each ride and ride site setup varies, the number of volunteers and support staff will vary with each ride. Ride managers need to manage these numbers carefully (ride managers could look first for volunteers from family cohort groups.), and manage with the minimum number of volunteers required to implement protocol as outlined in this plan. Of key importance is utilizing volunteers to mitigate congregation of riders. You will need to take into account the day(s) of arrival and departure, as this may impact the number of entries to your ride.
- Entries will be by pre-registration sent to the ride secretary, and electronic payment sent to the ERA treasurer, at [ERAonlinepay@gmail.com](mailto:ERAonlinepay@gmail.com). Registrants will be emailed an information package, and will be required to provide the names of crew or family members, along with the contact information of these individuals accompanying the rider. (Address, phone numbers, e-mail address) Riders, crew, support personnel, veterinarians, etc. must also provide contact information and a name and phone number(s) for an emergency contact person. The ride manager, while complying with the maximum participant number, may have to limit, or exclude crew and family member attendance, in order to accommodate as many entrants as possible.

- Entries will close once the maximum number of participants has been reached, or upon the closing date.
- **Registration will be open to ERA members first. If numbers allow, out-of-province riders, who are members in good standing of their provincial organization, may register. For the 2021 season, there will be no Introductory level rides or day-member riders participating if there continues to be a mandated maximum number of participants.**
- Competitors will be provided with a refund or credit towards future competition, to allow anyone with Covid-19 exposure or symptoms to withdraw at any time, even last minute. If withdrawal by a rider or support personnel is prior to the event, they should contact the organizing committee as soon as possible to allow for entrance of another rider or support crew.
- Monitoring who enters the venue/property is important in the event contact tracing is required. The Ride Secretary will prepare a Master List of attendees included in the maximum numbers for the event. Persons not on the Master list will not be granted entry to the venue.
- Each person/guardian entering the venue needs to bring the completed and signed forms that are applicable to their participation in the event:
  - Daily COVID-19 Attestation and Agreement
  - Waiver of Liability For All Claims and Release of Liability – Event Participation Waiver
  - Waiver of Liability For All Claims and Release of Liability – Facility Use Waiver

Refusal to sign applicable forms will result in refusal of entry to the venue.

**Applicable forms will be provided to ALL participants: riders, volunteers, crew, and support personnel prior to the ride.**

- If a participant, their crew or family member or volunteer experience symptoms of Covid-19, they must notify ride management/Covid-19 Compliance Officer immediately, and arrange for safe vacating of the premises, limiting all contact with other participants. Depending on the severity of the symptoms, vacating the venue may involve having to isolate the individual to their trailer until their emergency contact person is contacted and able to provide transportation for the individual.

- If anyone attending the event becomes sick within two weeks following the ride, they must contact the ride manager and indicate the dates they were onsite, and their close contacts at the ride site.

**Hygiene/Sanitation** – Ride Management will ensure there is hand washing/sanitizer available to participants and volunteers in all common areas.

Ride Managers will provide adequate hand washing/sanitization stations at the entrance/exit to common areas, bathroom facilities. These may be self-contained portable hand washing stations or as simple as buckets with spigots – as long as there is liquid dispensing soap available, individual hand drying and proper disposal of paper waste.

Hand sanitizer that is at least 60% alcohol will be provided at all areas where people may interact, exchange items, pass each other or touch common items. In/out timers, pulse areas, and Vet checks are appropriate areas for use of hand sanitizer.

***The ERA has purchased hand sanitizer dispensers, and will provide the sanitizer required.***

PPE ( face masks, hand sanitizer, gloves) will be provided for volunteers and veterinarians by ride management. Volunteers may also choose to use their own face masks. Riders are responsible for providing their own masks, and sanitizer to use in their camp. Guidance on how to wear a mask properly can be found here: <https://www.alberta.ca/masks.aspx> and could be provided to all attendees.

Disinfectants may include: Lysol wipes, a virusol disinfectant labeled with an 8-digit DIN number, or a solution of 1 tsp bleach: 1 cup water

**Distancing/Gathering** – All persons attending ERA sanctioned endurance events will maintain minimum distancing of at least 2 meters from individuals.

- All areas where lines could form will be marked off to ensure 2 meters of social distancing.
- All areas where lines could form with horses will be marked off to ensure 4 meters distancing to allow for handlers/vets/pulse checkers/scribes, etc to move around the horse and still remain a minimum of 2 meters from other persons.

All group gatherings will be eliminated until such time that restrictions for group gatherings is lifted. This means ride briefing, awards, check-in-lines.

**Check-In** – Management will ensure that check in procedures follow recommendations for distancing, hygiene and sanitation. Pre-registration and electronic payment will be mandatory. There will be no cash transactions.

Rider packets will be emailed and riders will print them themselves.

The ride secretary or an additional volunteer will be stationed at the entry to ride camp, collecting signed forms that are applicable to each attendee's participation in the event:

- Daily COVID-19 Attestation and Agreement
- Waiver of Liability For All Claims and Release of Liability – Event Participation Waiver
- Waiver of Liability For All Claims and Release of Liability – Facility Use Waiver

**Applicable forms must be provided to ALL participants: riders, volunteers, crew, and support personnel prior to the ride.**

Ride Meeting –The ride briefing will be a written copy provided to participants along with the ride map in your Rider package which will be emailed to you after registration. All ride info will be provided to each rider. If riders have questions after arriving at ride camp, they would have to come into main camp and follow entrance/exit procedures for hygiene.

Awards –Mass award gatherings will be avoided. Completion awards will be handed out at the final vet area directly to each rider as they pass, or you may be asked to go to a specific location to pick it up. Placings will be posted on boards at the entrance/exit to main camp as they are tabulated. Riders receiving awards would then be the only ones coming to a pre-designated area to pick up their awards, or they may be delivered to your camp site.

Meals –*Meals and drinks will not be provided until such time that restrictions for group gatherings and provision of meals is lifted. Individuals are responsible for their own food and drink.*

Management will ensure that if “take out” meals are provided for veterinarians and/or volunteers, it is done in compliance with local, provincial, and federal guidelines regarding food preparation, distancing and group size.

**Riders and support staff will have their meals at their crewing area, work station or their own camp.**

Warm-up/Start line – Ride Managers and volunteers will monitor spacing and remind riders of spacing requirements.

Pulse checks – Ride Managers will ensure that the pulse check is conducted allowing for minimum spacing requirements and have no more than one rider per pulse taker at one time. Pulse takers will wear a mask, and use hand sanitizer after every interaction. All riders will be required to wear a mask in the pulsing area (The rider will be required to carry it with them in their pack, pocket, etc.).

Markers or cones will be set at 4 meter distances to mark positions for horses to remain until they move forward in the line. There will be two pulsers to decrease the opportunity for lines to form. Entrance to each pulse box will require the rider to use hand sanitizer.

Pulse team members will be assigned a stethoscope, and if needed, stop watch for their use during the day. These items are not to be shared, and must be cleaned thoroughly with disinfectant at the end of the day.

Out times will be posted on a white board at the OUT gate.

**Vetting** –Control Judges and Treatment Veterinarians shall make every effort to comply with all current local, provincial and federal safety guidelines concerning COVID-19. Due to the necessary direct and intimate contact required between veterinarians and the competing horses, the following requirements are made:

- Each competing horse shall be accompanied throughout the Vet Check by only ONE person, handler, or rider. That individual must wear a mask.
- Social distancing standards shall be observed between all persons within the Vet Check area, as much as is practicable
- Veterinarians and their scribes will wear masks/PPE, provided by ride management.
- Ride management will ensure hand sanitizer is available to all vets and scribes to be used between every horse/rider team

Markers or cones will be set up at 4 meter spacing for line ups. Hand sanitizer will be used by all riders prior to entering the vetting area.

Vet cards will be kept at the vetting area. When riders present their horse, the vet scribe will locate the vet card and annotate vet assessment.

**In/out timing** – Ride Managers will provide adequate spacing between in and out timers to prevent rider congestion. Management will ensure hand sanitizer is available to timers for use after every horse/rider interaction.

To diminish congestion, there will be an In and an Out table. It will be incumbent on riders not to cluster themselves and to come into and out of camp in an orderly fashion. Hand sanitizer will be available upon entrance/exit for all riders, and gloves/sanitizer for any volunteers touching common items. Out times will be clearly displayed on a large board for riders to see at a distance.

**Emergencies** – Ride management will ensure masks and gloves are available in all camp and vet check first aid kits.

**Rescue Trailer** – Management will ensure the driver of the trailer/quad has masks and gloves, as well as sanitizing equipment available in the vehicle, as appropriate. Ensure that a rider sanitizes their hands prior to entering the rescue vehicle. The cab of the vehicle/seat of quad needs to be sanitized after each use.

### **Symptomatic Participants**

- **If a participant, their crew or family member or volunteer experience symptoms of Covid-19, they must notify ride management/Covid-19 Compliance Officer immediately, and arrange for safe vacating of the premises, limiting all contact with other participants. Depending on the severity of the symptoms, vacating the venue may involve having to isolate the individual to their trailer until their emergency contact person is contacted and able to provide transportation for the individual.**
- **If anyone attending the event becomes sick within two weeks following the ride, they must contact the ride manager and indicate the dates they were onsite, and their close contacts at the ride site.**

## II. Riders and Participants (Riders, crew, volunteers, vets)

### Responsibilities of Riders and Participants

#### Guidance for Conducting ERA Sanctioned Events During COVID-19

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- Entries will be by pre-registration sent to the ride secretary, and electronic payment sent to the ERA treasurer, at [ERAonlinepay@gmail.com](mailto:ERAonlinepay@gmail.com). Registrants will be emailed an information package, and will be required to provide the names of crew or family members, along with the contact information of these individuals accompanying the rider. (Address, phone numbers, e-mail address) Riders, crew, support personnel, veterinarians, etc. must also provide contact information and a name and phone number(s) for an emergency contact person. The ride manager, while complying with the maximum participant number, may have to limit, or exclude crew and family member attendance, in order to accommodate as many entrants as possible.
- Entries will close once the maximum number of participants has been reached, or upon the closing date.
- Competitors will be provided with a refund or credit towards future competition, to allow anyone with Covid-19 exposure or symptoms to withdraw at any time, even last minute. If withdrawal by a rider or support personnel is prior to the event, they should contact the organizing committee as soon as possible to allow for entrance of another rider or support crew.
- Each person/guardian entering the venue needs to bring the completed and signed forms that are applicable to their participation in the event:
  - Daily COVID-19 Attestation and Agreement
  - Waiver of Liability For All Claims and Release of Liability – Event Participation Waiver
  - Waiver of Liability For All Claims and Release of Liability – Facility Use Waiver

**Applicable forms will be provided to ALL participants: riders, volunteers, crew, and support personnel prior to the ride.**

**Refusal to sign applicable forms will result in refusal of entry to the venue.**

It is the responsibility of every rider, attendee, crew person and volunteer to be aware of local situations where they are going to ride. Be aware of what is happening where you are going...not just where you have been. It is the responsibility of the rider, volunteers, crew and family in attendance to ensure they are healthy before attending any endurance event. This includes taking your temperature before you leave home. Riders need to stay apprised of Ride Management guidelines provided prior to events (i.e. email, text, social media, phone calls) and read all written documentation provided in rider packets to ensure they are complying with all policies. **READ, really read, and get to know ride management's guidelines so that you can follow them.**

Pack things you may never have thought of before. Personal protective equipment (PPE) such as face masks, hand sanitizer, disinfecting spray, wipes, disposable gloves and plenty of soap and water. It will be your responsibility to provide your own PPE. Ride management will be required to have supplies on hand for volunteers and veterinarians.

Riders, their crew and any participants attending on the riders' behalf must comply with Ride Management's posted guidelines at all times. Failure to do so could put management, volunteers, vets and other riders at risk. Riders and attendees who fail to comply with written or verbal guidance may be removed from the event.

Riders who refuse to follow ride management, ERA, local, provincial and federal guidelines can be refused entry, or be disqualified and asked to leave the venue.

Hygiene/Sanitation – Riders/crew/attendees will ensure there is hand washing/sanitizer available in their respective campsites. They will follow all ride guidelines regarding use of sanitizer and hand washing. Ride Managers will provide adequate hand washing/sanitization stations at the entrance/exit to common areas, and bathroom facilities. The Covid Compliance Officer will be sanitizing common areas frequently.

Distancing/Gathering – All persons attending ERA sanctioned endurance events will maintain minimum distances of at least 2 meters from other individuals.

**Persons who will be in close proximity to others for specific ride tasks (check-in, pulse checks, vetting, etc) will be required to wear masks. Riders must wear masks at pulse checks and vetting.**

Meals –Meals and drinks will not be provided until such time that restrictions for group gatherings and provision of meals is lifted. Individuals are responsible for their own food and drink. (Ride Management may provide take-out restaurant meals for volunteers and vets.)

**Check-in** –Riders will be notified via email, social media, etc. by Ride Management regarding the procedure for check-in.

**Ride Meeting** – Riders should read all written ride meeting information provided in rider packets or posted. **All group gatherings will be eliminated until such time that restrictions for group gatherings is lifted. This means ride briefing, awards, check-in-lines.**

**Warm up/Start line** – Riders will ensure that they maintain minimum spacing requirements at all times.

**Pulse Stations** – Riders will follow ride guidelines for pulse stations. There will be only one handler per horse.

**Vetting** – At all times, riders will follow ride organization guidelines for vetting procedures.

- Each competing horse shall be accompanied throughout the Vet Check by only ONE person, handler, or rider. The handler must wear a mask while presenting the horse to the vet.
- It will be up to each individual vet whether they prefer you on the opposite side of the horse, or because it is typically safer, on same side. **ASK!!**
- Markers or cones will be set up at 4 meter spacing for line ups. Hand sanitizer will be used by all riders prior to entering the vetting area.
- Vet cards will be kept at the vetting area. When riders present their horse, the vet scribe will locate the vet card and annotate vet assessment.

**In/out timing** – Riders will space themselves out at in/out timing areas and will follow guidelines for checking in/out at holds.

### **Symptomatic Participants**

- If a participant, their crew or family member or volunteer experience symptoms of Covid-19, they must notify ride management/Covid-19 Compliance Officer immediately, and arrange for safe vacating of the premises, limiting all contact with other participants. Depending on the severity of the symptoms, vacating the venue may involve having to isolate the individual to their trailer until their emergency contact person is contacted and able to provide transportation for the individual.
- If anyone attending the event becomes sick within two weeks following the ride, they must contact the ride manager and indicate the dates they were onsite, and their close contacts at the ride site.

### **III. Veterinarians**

#### **Responsibilities of Veterinarians**

**Veterinarians are a critical asset to Ride Management and riders to ensure the safety and welfare of horses. Control Judges and Treatment Veterinarians shall make every effort to comply with all current local, provincial and federal safety guidelines concerning COVID-19. Veterinarians shall be expected to assist Ride Management in promoting, modeling and enforcing adherence to safety protocols and appropriate hygiene by all participants. They shall also function as an information and PPE resource for Ride Management before and during the event.**

**Riders who do not comply with safety measures put in place by Ride Management will be asked to leave the venue. As veterinarians play an important role in public health, and are the most at-risk individuals at a ride venue, it is appropriate for Ride Management to ask them for input and assistance should such a situation occur. The specific roles of Ride Management and veterinary staff in handling these situations should be mutually agreed upon prior to the start of the ride.**

**Vetting – Ride managers will work with vet staff to ensure adequate staff and to ensure proper spacing. Due to the necessary direct and intimate contact required between the veterinarians and the competing horses, the following recommendations are made:**

- **Each competing horse shall be accompanied throughout the Vet Check by only ONE person, handler, or rider. The handler must wear a mask while presenting the horse to the vet.**
- **The vet will advise the rider which side of the horse they prefer the rider to stand during the check.**
- **Social distancing standards shall be observed between all persons within the Vet Check area, as much as is practicable.**
- **Veterinarians and their scribes will wear masks.**
- **Ride Management will ensure hand sanitizer is available to all vets and scribes to be used between every horse/rider team. The vet's stethoscope will be sanitized after each check.**

**Spacing for horses in line for presenting to the vet will be marked at a 4 meter minimum. Hand sanitizer should be used by all riders prior to entering the vet area.**

**Vet card management to decrease handling will include keeping vet cards at the vet area. When riders present their horse, the vet scribe will locate the vet card and annotate vet assessment.**

## **IV. Covid-19 Compliance Officer**

### **Responsibilities of the Covid-19 Compliance Officer**

**A Covid-19 Compliance Officer will be assigned for the duration of the event to ensure the guidelines that have been put in place are being followed, adhered to, and necessary Covid-19 response is not being overlooked.**

**Key roles of the Covid-19 Compliance Officer may be:**

- **Maintain a log of regular monitoring of Covid-19 controls on site**
- **Ensure there is sufficient up-to-date signage**
- **Ensure regular cleaning of washroom facilities, door handles, etc. is performed using Lysol wipes, a virusol disinfectant labeled with an 8-digit DIN number, or a solution of 1 tsp bleach: 1 cup water**
- **Ensure all 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 acknowledgement, etc.) to Ride Manager**
- **Informing Ride Manager if there is a confirmed case or if they have been made aware of an individual with Covid-19 symptoms and arranging for this individual's safe vacating of the premises, limiting all contact with other participants. Depending on the severity of the symptoms, vacating the venue may involve having to isolate the individual to their trailer until their emergency contact person is contacted and able to provide transportation for the individual.**
- **Ensuring any areas this individual has been in ride camp is disinfected thoroughly.**