
From: Mitchell, Kalia@CDFA <Kalia.Mitchell@cdfa.ca.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 07, 2020 1:58 PM
To: Anater, Kenneth@CDFA; Ferrero, Gregory@CDFA; Francesconi, Mike@CDFA; Goss, Sofia@CDFA; Quiroz, John@CDFA; Kume, Joji@CDFA; Pelle, Sarah@CDFA; Fick, Sue@CDFA
Cc: Flynn, Katherine@CDFA; (XPO) Jay Carlson
Subject: F&E Circular Letter F2020-08 EMMP Advisory Committee Meeting Update and COVID-19 Resources for Equestrian Facilities in California
Attachments: COVID 19 Resources For Equestrian Facilities in California.pdf; F2020-08 EMMP Advisory Committee Meeting Update.pdf

Good Afternoon Fair CEOs and Board Chairs,

Please find the attached Circular letter F2020-08, in regards to the EMMP February 2020 Advisory Committee updates, and the COVID 19 Resources publication for Equestrian Facilities in California.

Please ensure that this information is shared with the fair board at the next regularly scheduled board meeting, listed as an item of correspondence.

For future reference, you may view and download the F&E Circular Letters at [https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/Fairs_ & Expositions/](https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/Fairs_&_Expositions/) which are located under the "Correspondence" tab.

Sincerely,

Kalia Mitchell

Board Resource Coordinator

Fairs and Expositions Branch

California Department of Food and Agriculture

916-900-5274

Kalia.Mitchell@cdfa.ca.gov



We rise by lifting others.



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF
FOOD & AGRICULTURE

Karen Ross, Secretary

April 7, 2020

F2020-08

TO: All Fairground CEOs and Board Chairs

SUBJECT: CDFA Equine Medication and Monitoring Program February 2020
Advisory Committee Meeting Update

In February the Equine Medication Monitoring Program (EMMP) board held its first meeting of the year and has implemented a few new protocols and requirements for the 2020 show and event season.

Biosecurity Measures and Policy for Equine Events

With increased awareness and movement of equines across state borders, there is the potential for infectious diseases to spread easily. For all events where equines are present (Fair time, Rodeo's, Shows, Emergency Evacuations), it is advised by the Animal Health Branch and the EMMP Advisory Committee that biosecurity measures shall be implemented on all facilities across California. One main element to consider is establishing an isolation area on the fairgrounds. An isolation plan should be implemented for any horse showing clinical signs of an infectious disease.

If an equine is found suspect or positive for a reportable disease as listed on the [California Reportable Disease list](#), please report the case to the CDFA Animal Health Branch at 916-900-5002. It is advised that the DAA board establish a policy on the quarantine of animals found suspect and/or positive.

If horses are boarded at your facility, ensure that upon entry, there is a point of contact to confirm and report any outbreaks or cases, and have a communication plan in place in case of an outbreak. Within the contracts for any event that has horses, there needs to be a clause added for cancellation in the case of a confirmed outbreak or quarantine. For facilities with racehorses, there may be variants in the requirements or rules. For questions on race requirements contact the California Horse Racing Board at 916-263-6000.

For questions regarding biosecurity plans for equine events, contact Dr. Katie Flynn at 916-900-5039, or by email at Katherine.flynn@cdfa.ca.gov.

Notes for Fair Managers

- When contracting for a horse show, ensure that the show manager is having horses testing and that the fairgrounds has an approved quarantine area and policy and plan in place in case of quarantine.



- When contracting for a horse show, ensure that the show manager registers applicable events with the Equine Medication Monitoring Program. Questions and inquiries shall be forwarded to the EMMP at EMMP@cdfa.ca.gov.
- Ensure the fairgrounds has an appropriate isolation area, policy for isolation and a quarantine plan in place.
- Fairgrounds should review and comply with recommended Biosecurity measures outlined in the [Biosecurity Toolkit](#).
- If there is a quarantined horse or outbreak in your county, it is advised to consult a local veterinarian to ensure it is safe to host the horse show or event.

Show Managers

- Ensure that your Veterinarian is licensed
- To determine if your event is required to be registered with the Equine Medication Monitoring Program, review the event definition on the [EMMP website](#).
- [Form 76-024A](#) (Application to Register Equine Event) must be filed at least sixty (60) days before the event begins or [register online](#).
- Remittance of the fees collected, the total number of horses entered, and [Form 76-024A](#) must be sent to EMMP within 15 days after the final day of the event.
- For detailed instructions on submission of EMMP forms or remittance of EMMP fees visit the [EMMP Website for Event Managers](#)
- Records, including entry forms, must be retained for two years and be made available upon request by EMMP.
- Event managers shall collect, sign and submit CA [Form 76-027 \(Drug Declaration Form\)](#) to EMMP within 15 days of the event.
- Subscribe to EDCC (Equine Disease Communication Center) to receive disease alerts for the state of California or nationally.
- As of January 1, 2020, the California drug testing fee increased from \$5.00 to \$8.00 per horse entered a competition or consigned to a public sale. For all events held after January 1, 2020, event managers must collect \$8.00 per horse at each event. (CCR 1280.1 (c)(1) and (c)(2); CCR 1280.2)
- CDFA now accepts EECVI (Extended Equine Certificate of Veterinary Inspection) – this allows for interstate transport of horses; other than a change of ownership.
- EMMP developed Biosecurity Toolkit for Show management. This has been updated.

Fairgrounds with Racetracks or boarded horses

- In 2019, there were 22 violations issued by the EMMP for horses competing in a public equine event that violated the EMMP rules, specific detection of a prohibited substance or an overage of permissible substances.
- Disease Information Updates
 - West Nile Virus: In 2019, there were 15 confirmed cases of WNV. 2019 Positive Cases of WNV by county- Fresno (2), Kern (2), Madera (2), Merced,

- Riverside, Sacramento, San Bernardino, San Joaquin, Stanislaus (2). Age Ranges were 1-12 years old.
- Equine Infectious Anemia: Madera County had a confirmed case of EIA in January 2020. Equine Herpesvirus Myelencephalopathy: In Santa Barbara County one horse was confirmed positive and euthanized for EHM in January 2020
- Equine Vesicular Stomatitis: The following states have confirmed cases in 2019. Texas, New Mexico, Colorado, Wyoming, Oklahoma, Nebraska, Utah, Kansas. CA had movement restrictions for 30 days after the last quarantine release for each state.
- Disposal of carcasses is being evaluated by multiple organizations. No update yet.

EMMP Projects

- A research project has been funded by the EMMP to evaluate the use of CBD use in horses
- New EMMP Projects- studying effects: Bisphosphonates and Dipyrone use in horses and their effects.
- EMMP is seeking people interested in testers in Sacramento and Yolo County
 - Jobs are advertised at Indeed.com, Bay Area Equestrian Network

Resources

[Biosecurity Toolkit for Equine Events](#) – Please share with Board and Show Managers

[Equine Entry Requirements](#) – Please share with Show Managers.

[Information for Exhibitors and Consignors](#) – Please share with Show Managers and Exhibitors

[Information for Event Managers](#) – Please share with Board and Show Managers

[Drugs and Medication Guidelines](#)- Please share with Board, Show Managers, and Exhibitors

If there are any questions, please don't hesitate to call or email.

Sincerely,



John Quiroz, Branch Chief
Fairs and Expositions Branch



COVID 19 Resources for Equestrian Facilities in California

This guidance is based on what is currently known about the transmission and severity of COVID-19. The California Department of Food and Agriculture, in consultation with the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), will update this guidance as needed and as additional information becomes available.

Local environmental health and public health agencies may have additional guidance and/or requirements regarding these operations in their jurisdiction.

Background

According to the Governor's Order, essential critical infrastructure workers (<https://covid19.ca.gov/img/EssentialCriticalInfrastructureWorkers.pdf>) include those in animal agriculture. Individuals providing care and exercise to ensure the health of and welfare of equines in California are essential workers.

Equestrian facilities must prepare for possible impacts of COVID-19 and take precautions to prevent the spread of COVID-19. We are gaining more understanding of COVID-19's epidemiology, clinical course, immunogenicity, and other factors as time progresses, and the situation is changing daily.

Best Practices Guidelines for Equestrian Facilities

It is necessary to act in a manner that incorporates Governor Newsom's [Executive Orders](#) to prevent the spread of the coronavirus and protect California families and communities. To that end, the CDFA recommends the following:

Facility Access

- Restrict access to essential personnel (veterinarians, equine caretakers, trainers and essential owners).
- Prohibit non-essential persons (students, friends, family members, etc.) from entering the facility.
- Do not allow access to the facility to anyone who shows symptoms of COVID-19, or who has been exposed to a person with symptoms of COVID-19 (cough, shortness of breath, or fever). View the CDC's COVID-19 symptoms at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>
- Limit the number of personnel on the farm at any one time to ensure physical distancing. Use an online sign-up form to limit the number of individuals at the barn at any one time to no more than 10 individuals.
- All individuals must stay 6 feet apart and must not congregate.





- All individuals should wear a cloth face covering while on the premises.
- Require washing stations or hand sanitizer for all entering and leaving the premises.
- Limit on-farm activity to animal husbandry actions necessary to sustain animal health and welfare, namely, grooming, feeding, watering, cleaning of stalls and exercising.

Facility Biosecurity Measures

- All individuals entering shall wash hands before entering and wear clean clothes as part of the farm's general biosecurity plan.
- Individuals should touch only the equipment and supplies necessary for completing the tasks of caring for and exercising the specific horse(s).
- Prohibit the shared use of helmets, grooming supplies, tack and other equipment between individuals. Any equipment that must be shared should be cleaned and disinfected before and after use.
- Keep individual animal waterers and feed bunks in a fixed position within the stall to ensure feed or water can be provided without touching these items or removing them.
- Feed pickup and delivery may be delayed during the emergency response. Calculate how much feed will be necessary for your animals and ensure adequate feed is on-hand prior to moving animals in.
- When handling shared facilities such as trash receptacle lids, hoses, etc., use good biosecurity practices such as gloves, paper towels, hand-washing or other methods, as appropriate, to avoid transmission.

Cleaning and Disinfection Measures to Prevent COVID-19 Transmission

- The virus can persist on non-porous materials (leather bridles/saddles/halters, nylon halters/lead ropes, gate latches, door handles, spray nozzles) longer than porous materials (cotton lead ropes, saddle pads).
 - According to the CDC the coronavirus can survive in the air up to 3 hours, on copper up to 4 hours, on cardboard up to 24 hours, and on stainless steel and plastic up to 72 hours.
- Clean communal leather tack daily with tack cleaner.
- Disinfect gate latches, stall door handles, light switches, feed scoops, hose ends, spray nozzles, cross tie snaps, pitchforks, wheelbarrows and other frequently handled surfaces regularly or after contact with personnel.
- The CDC disinfection guidelines for COVID-19 are here:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/cleaning-disinfection.html>
- A list of approved disinfectants for tougher surfaces (not to be used on leather) is found here. <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2>





- Although there is no evidence that horses can contract or become ill from COVID-19, practice good hygiene by washing your hands with soap and water for a minimum of 20 seconds or using a >60% alcohol hand sanitizer after touching a horse, communal areas, or communal equipment to prevent environmental spread of the virus. Hand sanitizer is not as effective as soap and water, so only use when there is no soap and water available and hands are not visibly soiled.

Veterinary Care, Communication and Equine Health

- With the shortage of personal protective equipment across the country, veterinarians and veterinary clinics are reducing non-essential visits.
- Communicate proactively with the veterinarians to determine how to handle a veterinary emergency under current physical distancing guidelines. Discuss what urgent veterinary healthcare issues may come up during the emergency response period, and how to address them (or postpone them) while adhering to current physical distancing guidelines.
- Be proactive with individual animal health and nutrition to prevent disease occurrence.
- To prevent illness, horses should be exercised or turned out regularly.
- Segregate new animals entering the farm, and any animals showing signs of illness such as a fever, nasal discharge, cough, or diarrhea.

Human-to-Animal Transmission (citation: [AVMA](#))

- While two (2) dogs (Hong Kong) and one (1) cat (Belgium) have been reported to have been infected with SARS-CoV-2, there is currently no evidence at this point to indicate that privately owned animals spread COVID-19 to other animals or people.
- Out of an abundance of caution, it is recommended that those ill with COVID-19 avoid contact with animals until more information is known about the virus. Owners/Animal Caretakers should designate an individual to care for the animal in the event of a COVID-19 illness.

COVID-19 and Barn Safety Poster

- https://aaep.org/sites/default/files/images/COVID_19andBarn_%20safety.jpg





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Karen Ross, Secretary

Latest California Updates on COVID-19

- Visit the California Department of Public Health website at <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Immunization/nCOV2019.aspx>
- California's COVID-19 webpage: <https://covid19.ca.gov/>

