



EQUESTRIAN  
VICTORIA

## MEMBER RELEASE

# UPDATED ANNOUNCEMENT RE: AGISTMENT CENTRES, MEMBERS, COACHES & CLUBS

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**4PM - MONDAY 30 MARCH 2020**

**Equestrian Victoria's (EV) priority is the safety of our members and our community.**

We are in constant communication with the Victorian Department for Health and Human Services (DHHS) and Sport and Recreation Victoria (SRV) and take this opportunity to UPDATE our Membership with essential information regarding the care of your horse(s) and coaching.

**NOTE: This information is current as of today (30 March 2020) and may be overridden by any changes announced by government.**

**Also note that there are a list of Frequently Asked Questions at the end of this document.**

**Please be aware that the current Victorian Government Stage 3 Restrictions only allow for gatherings of up to 2 people. If you can stay at home, you should stay at home.**

### 1. Agistment Facilities

- a. If you own or operate an agistment you may continue to operate your facility and treat and care for the animals on your agistment and maintain the facility.
- b. For agistment facilities with multiple horses, the facility must implement a roster system<sup>1</sup> to ensure [social distancing requirements](#) can be maintained and the facility cleaned in accordance with DHHS guidelines.
- c. If you agist a horse at a property you may continue to treat and care for your horse, INCLUDING exercising, ensuring you maintain good physical distancing and hygiene practices. Please note, you should contact your agistment facility who may have enacted specific rules related to their facility. Equally, members may consider spelling their horse(s) at this time.
- d. If you're caring for your horse directly, only ride your horse within the boundaries of the property where it's kept. Don't transport your horse by float to ride somewhere else. If you do choose to ride, take necessary precautions to ensure your health and safety.
- e. Vets and other professional services (e.g. farriers) are permitted to attend where required, whilst adhering to social distancing and hygiene requirements.

<sup>1</sup> A list of online scheduling resources is provided at the back of this document.

## 2. Travelling to care for your horse(s)

- a. Travel to care for your animals, including horses, is allowed. This includes providing your animals with food, water and anything else to meet your animal welfare responsibilities, including exercising.
- b. If you must leave your house to attend to your horse, take all necessary health measures, and comply with any specific travel measures and government guidelines specified in the Victorian Government's [Stage 3 Restrictions](#).
- c. Only use your own grooming kit, tack and do not share equipment with other people.
- d. For horses kept at a facility where feed or equipment may be stored centrally, take care to use good hygiene practices around door handles and other points which other owners may touch.
- e. See the [latest physical distancing restrictions](#) for information on self-isolation and hygiene practices.

## 3. Horse riding – am I allowed to ride my horse?

If you're caring for your horse directly, only ride your horse within the boundaries of the property where it's kept. Don't transport your horse by float to ride somewhere else. If you do choose to ride, take necessary precautions to ensure your health and safety. Keep it local, keep it low risk.

## 4. Coaching

Coaching for many is a profession and a livelihood. The Victorian Government has stated that people may travel for their work. Coaching can only take place at private facilities, including agistment facilities, but may only be conducted outdoors on a 1-to-1 or 1-to-1 household basis, consistent with social distancing and personal hygiene regulations.

The floating of horses to coaching facilities is considered non-essential travel.

At all times we encourage you to stay safe, practice good hygiene and #loveyourhorse

For further information:

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# FAQ's

**NOTE: FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE CORONAVIRUS CAN BE FOUND IN THE IMPORTANT LINKS SECTION AT THE END OF THIS DOCUMENT.**

**Q. Can I attend my agistment and feed my horse(s)?**

A. *You must confirm with the owners, whether you are able to attend your agistment facility, to care for and maintain your horse. Agistment facilities are required to implement a roster system to ensure social distancing requirements are maintained and the facility is cleaned in accordance with DHHS guidelines.*

**Q. What if there are several people at my agistment?**

A. *Agistment facilities are required to implement a roster system to ensure social distancing requirements are maintained and the facility is cleaned in accordance with DHHS guidelines. In the event there are other persons at your agistment centre in contravention of the circulated roster please notify the owners immediately. At all times practice social distancing and other transmission reduction measures consistent with the Victorian Government's guidelines.*

**Q. Can I exercise or ride where I agist my horse(s)?**

A. *Exercising is considered essential to the care and welfare of horses. Agistment facilities are required to act in accordance with Victorian Government regulation. Before proceeding please contact your agistment facility as rules within private facilities may vary. Note: The Victorian Government has advised that all Indoor sporting and recreation facilities are closed. Equestrian Victoria assess this to include covered arenas.*

**Q. Am I able to **hire out** my privately owned facility to horses NOT agisted at my property for the purpose to ride or exercises horse(s)?**

A. *No. The Deputy Chief Health Officer (Communicable Diseases) Non-Essential Activity Directions states that: A person who owns, controls or operates a recreational facility in Victoria must not operate that facility between midnight on 26 March and midnight 13 April 2020. A recreational facility includes facilities operated on a for profit or not-for profit basis and includes: a facility used predominantly for indoor recreation and/or a facility used predominantly for outdoor physical recreation.*

**Q. Can a professional trainer of horses still operate?**

A. *As long as the trainer is training a horse(s) already housed at their property or the trainer is travelling to a private premises for the purpose of their work then professional trainers may continue to operate so long as it is in accordance with the Victorian Government's current restrictions.*

**Q. If I have an accident riding/exercising or attending my horse, am I still covered by insurance?**

A. *Gow-Gates has reaffirmed its advice that in order to ensure ongoing coverage under the insurance program, all parties covered by the Equestrian Australia insurance, including members, coaches and affiliates must adhere to the relevant governing body and governmental guidelines and demonstrate reasonable care.*

**Q. Should I wear gloves when using facilities at my agistment.**

A. *Members should always practise good personal hygiene consistent with Victorian Government guidelines. Your agistment centre may require that gloves are worn. Please contact your agistment centre for advice specific to your facility.*

- Q. What are the numbers of horse owners/riders etc. can be at my agistment at one time or does it depend on the size of my agistment property?
- A. *There are currently no specific guidelines about the numbers present at an agistment property other than the Victorian Governments directive that agistment facilities are required to implement a roster system to ensure social distancing requirements are maintained and the facility is cleaned in accordance with DHHS guidelines.*
- Q. If I am leasing a horse or share a horse with another rider, can we still share responsibilities and attend the horse facility?
- A. *So long as lessees act in accordance the Victorian Government Restrictions.*
- Q. I am a rider - can I have lessons or be coached on my own property or where I agist?
- A. *Coaches, as part of their work, may travel (as essential travel) to conduct their business. In this instance coaches must comply with all Victorian Government Regulations including but not limited to social distancing and personal hygiene.*
- Q. I am a coach - can I continue to coach/train my clients?
- A. *Coaches may continue to conduct their business. However as floating horses between properties is considered non-essential travel, should not coach travelling clients.*
- Q. Can I move my horse from one property to another?
- A. *Horses may be travelled only on specific advice e.g. veterinary requirement. All other travel is considered non-essential.*
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## Important Links:

- Victorian Government Stage 3 Restrictions – “[Slowing the Spread of the Coronavirus](#)”
- Gow-Gates Insurance: [http://www.gowgatesport.com.au/equestrian/?page\\_id=7](http://www.gowgatesport.com.au/equestrian/?page_id=7)
- DHHS – Physical distancing and other transmission reduction measures – coronavirus (COVID-19): <https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus-covid-19-transmission-reduction-measures#slowing-the-spread-of-coronavirus-in-victoria>
- A link to Government resources which agistment centres can print and put up around your facility:
  - [https://www.health.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/2020/03/coronavirus-covid-19-frequently-asked-questions\\_9.pdf](https://www.health.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/2020/03/coronavirus-covid-19-frequently-asked-questions_9.pdf)
  - [https://www.health.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/2020/03/coronavirus-covid-19-know-the-signs-coronavirus-covid-19-know-the-signs-poster\\_0.pdf](https://www.health.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/2020/03/coronavirus-covid-19-know-the-signs-coronavirus-covid-19-know-the-signs-poster_0.pdf)
  - [https://www.health.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/2020/03/coronavirus-covid-19-stop-the-spread-coronavirus-covid-19-stop-the-spread-poster\\_0.pdf](https://www.health.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/2020/03/coronavirus-covid-19-stop-the-spread-coronavirus-covid-19-stop-the-spread-poster_0.pdf)
- Online scheduling / rostering online resources
  - <https://www.picktime.com/>
  - <https://www.acuityscheduling.com/>
  - <https://www.vcita.com/>
  - <https://www.shedul.com/>