



MEMBER RELEASE

UPDATED ANNOUNCEMENT EQUESTRIAN CENTRES, AGISTMENT CENTRES, COACHES & CLUBS UPDATE

9AM SATURDAY 28 March 2020

**UPDATED ANNOUNCEMENT RE EQUESTRIAN FACILITIES
PLEASE READ THIS RELEASE CAREFULLY AND IN ITS ENTIRETY**

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 take this opportunity to UPDATE our Member Release from Friday 27 March 2020.

Equestrian Victoria wishes to clarify that pursuant to the Deputy Chief Health Officer (Communicable Diseases) Non-Essential Activity Directions that:

1. 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:

- i. a facility used predominantly for indoor recreation;
- ii. a facility used predominantly for outdoor physical recreation.

This currently includes equestrian facilities.

2. **Animal Facilities**

- a. A person who owns, controls or operates an **animal facility** in Victoria must not operate that facility for the purpose of allowing the public to visit that facility between midnight on 26 March and midnight 13 April 2020.
- b. An **animal facility** includes an animal farm that is not for the purpose of producing food.
- c. If a person owns, controls or operates an animal facility **MAY** continue to operate the facility for the purposes of:
 - i. Treating or caring for animals; and
 - ii. Performing an animal rescue function; and
 - iii. Maintaining the facility.

THEREFORE, Equestrian Victoria assesses that:

- 1. All Victorian Equestrian facilities whether, for profit or not-for-profit must not operate until midnight 13 April 2020.**
- 2. If you own or operate an agistment you may continue to treat and care for the animals on your agistment and maintain the facility.**
- 3. If you agist a horse at a property you may continue to treat and care for your horse.**

The purpose of the directions of the DHHS is to prohibit the operation of non-essential businesses and undertakings to limit the spread of COVID-19 (Coronavirus).

This is a complex situation with many varying scenarios. Equestrian Victoria is currently in communication with Victorian Department for Health and Human Services (DHHS) regarding Equestrian activities and in particular the directions around Equestrian and Agistment Centres and their operation. We will keep you informed with the outcome of these discussions.

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

For further information:

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