

COVID-19 FAQ's

Updated 21 April 2020

Victoria's Chief Health Officer, Doctor Brett Sutton, issued directions that took effect from midnight 7 April 2020. These Directions were updated on 13 April 2020 in line with the extended State of Emergency.

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). These FAQs have been provided to try and answer the most common questions you may have about how the Government restrictions may impact upon you.

IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE:

- There will be many scenarios that cannot be covered here.
- This information is current as of midnight **13 April 2020** and is **regularly updated** and may be overridden by any changes announced by government at any stage.
- Failure to adhere to Government guidelines may invalidate your insurance(s).

We all have a responsibility to keep up-to-date and comply with Government directives.

The overarching message from the Victorian State Government as of midnight on **13 April 2020 is:**

If you can, stay home, you must stay home. Help stop the spread of the Coronavirus.

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 11 May 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 Government's 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 with 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.*