

EQUESTRIAN VICTORIA COVID-19 ADVICE

STAGE 3 REGIONAL VICTORIA & STAGE 4 METROPOLITAN MELBOURNE – 18 August 2020



IMPORTANT TO NOTE: A STATE OF DISASTER HAS BEEN DECLARED IN THE STATE OF VICTORIA

Please note that Equestrian Victoria (EV) is not an expert on pandemics and as such all [Victorian Government](#) and [Department of Health and Human Services](#) information, guidelines and directives supersede this information. We acknowledge and thank Sport & Recreation Victoria (SRV) for their support in developing this plan and in representing the equestrian community to various Victorian Government agencies. We also acknowledge and thank Equestrian Sports NZ for their permission to adapt their Covid-19 Alert Plan for Victoria.

This document may change as the government response to the Covid-19 situation evolves. The most up to date information will be available on the Equestrian Victoria website, distributed through our Social Media channels, and direct communications to members and agistment centres registered with Equestrian Victoria. We will monitor the government restriction levels as we move between different stages, and if there is more flexibility for equestrian activities, we will update these recommendations in line with government advice. **All of the Victorian equestrian community should be aware of and consider their own situations at any given time and apply common sense. The Victorian Government has released Stage Restrictions which may vary for different parts of the state.**

METROPOLITAN MELBOURNE – STAGE 4 RESTRICTIONS

On 2nd August the Victorian Premier, The Hon. Daniel Andrews, announced the following directions to abide by:

From 6pm on Sunday 2 August 2020, restrictions are changing for metropolitan Melbourne. Metropolitan Melbourne is moving to Stage 4 Restrictions. The definition of metropolitan Melbourne is based on the Planning and Environment Act 1987 which sets out the local government areas that form metropolitan Melbourne, and will not include Mitchell Shire for the purposes of the Stage 4 curfew or travel restrictions. These changes are being introduced to reduce the number of people leaving their homes and moving around Victoria.

From 2 August, a curfew will be in place in metropolitan Melbourne. Curfews will be in operation from 8pm to 5am every evening, with people only allowed to leave their house for work, and essential health, care or safety reasons.

From 5am – 8pm, you can only leave your home for one of the following four reasons:

- **To purchase food and necessary supplies.**
This must be done within a 5km radius from where you live. Only 1 person per household can leave for essential goods, and only once per day. For some people the nearest goods and services will be more than 5km away. In this situation you may travel beyond 5km to the nearest provider. If you are unable to leave home because it would mean leaving a young child or at-risk person at home unattended, then they may accompany you.
- **Exercise.**
once a day for up to 1 hour within a 5km radius of your home. Gathering sizes will be limited to 2. If you are unable to leave home because it would mean leaving a young child or at-risk person at home unattended, then they may accompany you.
- **For care and health care.**
including accompanying someone for essential medical care if you are a carer, guardian or necessary support person. The 5km limit does not apply to care or caregiving.
- **Work.**
Study at TAFE and university must be done remotely. The 5km limit does not apply to work.

If you do need to leave home, you should wash your hands before you leave and when you return home. Keep at least 1.5 metres between yourself and others. Always wear a face covering, unless you have a lawful exception. Never, ever, go out, if you are unwell, unless it is to get tested and then you must go straight home and self-isolate. For the complete detail around the permitted reasons to leave home, please refer to the DHHS website: <https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/updated-restrictions-announcement-2-august-covid-19>

REGIONAL VICTORIA – STAGE 3 RESTRICTIONS

From 11:59pm on Wednesday 5 August, Stage 3 Stay at Home restrictions apply in Victoria, except if you live in metropolitan Melbourne where Stage 4 restrictions apply. The definition of metropolitan Melbourne is based on the Planning and Environment Act 1987 which sets out the local government areas that form metropolitan Melbourne.

If you live in regional Victoria, including Mitchell Shire, there are only four reasons that you can leave home:

- to shop for food and essential goods or services
- to provide care, for compassionate reasons or to seek medical treatment
- to exercise or for outdoor recreation with your household, or one other person
- for work or study, if you can't do it from home

You may no longer have visitors to your home or visit other people in their homes.

From 11:59pm on Sunday 2 August 2020, all Victorians must wear a face covering when they leave home, no matter where they live.

FUTURE EQUESTRIAN ACTIVITY – RETURN TO RIDING

Our Return to Riding Plan will again be actioned as and when restrictions are changed, allowing a 'Return to Covid Safe Riding'.

OTHER USEFUL LINKS AND RESOURCES

- [Department of Health and Human Services](#)
- [Sport and Recreation Victoria](#)
- or the DHHS Coronavirus Hotline 1800 675 398

CONTACT YOUR GOVERNING BODY:

- [Equestrian Victoria \(EV\)](#)
- [Pony Club Victoria \(PCV\)](#)
- [Horse Riding Clubs Association of Victoria \(HRCVAV\)](#)
- [Riding for the Disabled Victoria \(RDA\)](#)

EQUESTRIAN VICTORIA ADVICE DURING COVID-19 STAGE 4

IMPLEMENTED FOR MELBOURNE UNTIL 13 SEPTEMBER 2020 - 18 August 2020



This document should be read in conjunction with Equestrian Victoria's release '[Caring for your Horse in Metropolitan Melbourne Stage 4](#)' released on 13 August 2020.

Stage 4	Victorian Government Directives	Equestrian Victoria Measures Undertaken	What Stage 4 Means for Groups and Clubs	What Stage 4 Means for the Equestrian Public
<p>In place from 6pm on Sunday 2 August for Metropolitan Melbourne until 13 September, unless otherwise altered by Victorian Government.</p>	<p>Introduced to reduce the number of people leaving their homes and moving around Victoria.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A curfew will be in place in metropolitan Melbourne. Curfews will be in operation from 8pm to 5am every evening, with people only allowed to leave their house for work, and essential health, care or safety reasons. People instructed to stay at home other than for 4 Essential Reasons listed below. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Necessary Goods & Services Exercise Care and health care Work Melbourne residents are also able to leave the home for personal reasons. You may no longer have visitors to your home or visit other people in their homes. Travel is also severely limited. Outdoor facilities are closed. Indoor sporting facilities are closed. All Riding Schools and Centres should be closed to the public. <p>For business and industry. Changes introduced for businesses will mean around 1 million Victorians are no longer moving around the state for work. For information on how these restrictions relate to businesses, including the creation of a Covid-Safe plan, please refer to: https://www.vic.gov.au/coronavirus-covid-19-restrictions-victoria</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The EV office is closed Staff are working from home and any business is being conducted online or by phone No EV High Performance, State or Development Squad training will take place. No equestrian competitions are taking place (either cancelled or postponed). To be reviewed in line with Government guidelines and directives. Meetings, committees, workshops taking place via online. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No equestrian competitions to take place (either cancelled or postponed). To be reviewed in line with Government guidelines and directives. All group/club facilities and centres should be closed as per Victorian Government directives. Group/club/committee meetings/workshops should only take place online. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Everyone is encouraged to not ride where possible, in order to reduce the pressure on emergency services in case of an accident. From 11:59 PM on Wednesday 5 August, coaches and trainers must work from home and use online and video conferencing facilities to deliver their coaching and training. The exception to this rule is if the coach/trainer is providing services to a rider/s already within their household. People who have horses or animals to care for, and those horses or animals are not kept within 5km of that persons' residence, are permitted to travel to care for those animals as required, on animal welfare grounds. A person who is travelling to care for an animal may travel beyond the 5km radius to do so. A person who is travelling to care for an animal may take longer than one hour to do so. A person who is travelling to care for an animal may travel with one other person from the same household. In the instance where a person exercising a horse, on animal welfare grounds, cannot do so safely on the property where the horse is kept, you may ride "off property" but only in the immediate local area and NOT float horse(s) to third party locations. Whilst caring for your animal, you must ensure that all necessary health measures are followed such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wash hands before and after and or use hand sanitiser. Only do the minimum that you need to do to care for the animal. Use your own grooming kit, tack and equipment. Agistment Centres must set up a roster and limit the number of persons on the property at any one time. Members should still refer to the agistment centre owner for specific restrictions and requirements implemented at the facility. You are only allowed to exercise your horse on animal welfare grounds, with one other person or household members. Training should only be done if you are at home, on your property Vets and other equine services (e.g. farriers) are considered essential services and are permitted on the grounds of animal welfare, whilst adhering to social distancing and hygiene requirements.

EQUESTRIAN VICTORIA ADVICE DURING COVID-19 STAGE 3

IMPLEMENTED FOR REGIONAL VICTORIA UNTIL 13 SEPTEMBER 2020 - 18 August 2020



Stage 3	Victorian Government Directives	Equestrian Victoria Measures Undertaken	What Stage 3 Means for Groups and Clubs	What Stage 3 Means for the Equestrian Public
<p>In place from 6pm on Sunday 2 August for Regional Victoria (including the Mitchell Shire).</p>	<p>Introduced to reduce the number of people leaving their homes and moving around Victoria. If you live in regional Victoria, including Mitchell Shire, there are only four reasons that you can leave home:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> to shop for food and essential goods or services to provide care, for compassionate reasons or to seek medical treatment to exercise or for outdoor recreation with your household, or one other person for work or study, if you can't do it from home <ul style="list-style-type: none"> You may no longer have visitors to your home or visit other people in their homes. Indoor sports centres including gyms, training facilities and pools are closed. Community sport training and competition cannot occur. You can only exercise or undertake sporting activities outside with one other person or household members. You must be able to keep 1.5 metres distance between yourself and others. Some* outdoor sport facilities are closed. Personal training outdoors can occur but with a limit of two participants, in addition to the instructor. You should exercise and use outdoor facilities at the closest available location to your home. When you are outside your home, you MUST wear a face covering. <p>FOR BUSINESSES: Changes introduced for businesses will mean around 1 million Victorians are no longer moving around the state for work. For information on how these restrictions relate to businesses, including the creation of a Covid-Safe plan, please refer to: https://www.vic.gov.au/coronavirus-covid-19-restrictions-victoria</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The EV office is closed Staff are working from home and any business is being conducted online or by phone No EV High Performance, State or Development Squad training will take place. No equestrian competitions are taking place (either cancelled or postponed). To be reviewed in line with Government guidelines and directives. Meetings, committees, workshops taking place via online. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outdoor sport: only allowed to exercise, with one other person or household members, provided 1.5 metres distance can be maintained. *Outdoor facilities may be open where: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> public gathering and physical distancing limits (1.5 metres and only with one other person or household members) can be adhered to and there is no use of shared equipment or communal facilities. For outdoor facilities that meet the requirements above and where access is controlled by a club, a booking system is required to be in place to ensure that all restrictions are met. There should be NO organised CLUB or GROUP activity. Group/club/committee meetings/workshops should only take place online. No equestrian competitions to take place (either cancelled or postponed). To be reviewed in line with Government guidelines and directives. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The key messages are, keep it low risk, keep it local, remain within your current abilities and don't start new activities or a new discipline at this time. If you are unable to exercise your horse safely on the property where the horse is kept, you may ride "off property" but keep the riding as local and as risk free as possible. You may float your horse to a safe, local, outdoor facility. Members who agist should still refer to the Agistment Centre/facility owner for specific restrictions and requirements implemented at the facility. Equipment should not be shared or touched by other people. Indoor sport and recreation facilities are CLOSED. Group activities with anyone outside your household are not allowed. Activities are to be limited to one other person or household members. Travel to care for your horse/s, is allowed. This includes exercising. However, all necessary health and safety measures will need to be followed. If you are unwell or have Covid Symptoms you must stay home or get tested. Coaches may continue to coach outdoors and those receiving instruction can only do so with one other person or household member, and only under the following conditions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coaching may take place at private and/or agistment facilities or at Outdoor Facilities if there are no safe areas at the private facility and those Outdoor Facilities meet the conditions for *Outdoor facilities in the column 'What Stage 3 Means for Groups and Clubs'. You should not travel further than you need to, and you should coach at the closest available location to your home. You can be coached with members of your household or one other person, plus an instructor if required. You should not travel further than you need to, and be coached at the closest available location to your home. Those receiving instruction should NOT travel outside their local area nor travel outside of their local area for coaching. The movement of persons should be kept local. The floating of horses to coaching facilities outside your local area for training is considered non-essential travel. Coaches may not travel into a Stage 4 area to coach. You must be able to keep 1.5m distance between yourself and others Strict hygiene practices must be practiced Any shared essential equipment such as gates, jump wings, dressage arenas etc should be sanitised before and after use. Sharing of equipment such as helmets gloves and whips is not permitted. Vets and other equine services (e.g. farriers) are considered essential services and are permitted on the grounds of animal welfare, whilst adhering to social distancing and hygiene requirements.