



## COVID-19: Live Racing Protocols

April 27, 2020

The health, safety and welfare of every person and every horse in the Maryland Racing community is our top priority.

We strive to be in full compliance with all State, County and local health department orders regarding all recommended CDC precautions and safeguards to ensure the health and safety of the limited number of essential racing personnel required to operate racing without public attendance, including mandatory social distancing requirements.

The horse racing industry is unique in several respects and now, perhaps more than ever in these difficult times, we are mindful of our responsibility to prioritize the safety and well-being of the horses and those who care for them.

We can effectively limit exposure, per health and governmental regulations, while continuing to support our industry.

This document covers the best practices and guidelines for minimizing the possibility of the spread of COVID-19 during live racing at Laurel Park.

### **Live Racing at Laurel Park:**

The following specific protocols are currently in force at Laurel Park and Pimlico Race Course. However, **we contemplate live racing only at Laurel Park for the duration of Covid-19 restrictions** in order to limit the travel of personnel, horsemen and horses.

### **Social Distance Requirement:**

Every employee, official, jockey, and horseman MUST maintain social distance and isolation strategies at all times, both within and outside of the racing and training hours. Potential exposures to Covid-19 compromise the live racing program and therefore must not be tolerated. Participants exhibiting poor distancing or isolation judgements may be promptly removed from participation in live racing and training activities.

### **Backstretch and Stable Areas:**

#### A) Access:

- Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) and Security resources are present at the stable gate entrance to take and record temperatures of, and control access to the grounds, of essential

personnel. Only those essential personnel demonstrating fair health will be permitted access to the grounds.

- Individuals exhibiting elevated temperature or evidence of illness are required to self-isolate for 14 days. Admission to the stable area and other MJC facilities will be denied within this period.
- Only trainers with horses presently stabled at Laurel and Pimlico and essential personnel licensed by the Maryland Racing Commission who are responsible for the care of the horses (veterinarians, grooms, exercise riders, farriers, etc.) will be permitted access to the backstretch and stable areas.
- Only horses shipping onto the grounds from within the State and who are accompanied by essential, licensed personnel will be allowed to enter the stable gate.
  - The 'in-state' restriction complies with the state mandate in force as of April 15, 2020 and may be relaxed if consistent with future State travel directives.
  - Horse transportation into the stable area is restricted as follows:
    - Laurel Park: 7:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. Monday – Friday
    - Pimlico: 8:00 a.m. until Noon, Thursday – Friday
  - Only in-state horse transportation drivers are permitted to enter the facility.
    - All drivers must have their temperatures recorded and display fair health prior to entry.
    - Horse transport drivers are not permitted to exit their vehicle, receiving horsemen are to unload horses themselves.
    - Additional transportation personnel (i.e., grooms or attendants not licensed by the Maryland Racing Commission) will be not be permitted to enter with the horses.
- A stable area curfew is in force between 9:00 p.m. and 4:00 a.m.
  - No entry into the backstretch will be permitted between the hours of 9:00 p.m. and 4:00 a.m. unless emergency purposes.
  - Veterinarians and horsemen attending to emergencies are required to go through all applicable security protocols prior to entry
- Security personnel will retain a log of all personnel who enter and exit the backstretch - recording name, date and time of entry and exit.
- All security personnel will be required to wear face coverings and gloves.
- All essential employees will be educated on the proper removal of face coverings and gloves and will receive regular protocol updates

B) Track Kitchen:

- The track kitchen will remain open for take-out service for essential personnel only.
- Six-foot social distance spacing lines have been marked in the track kitchen.
- Dedicated security for the track kitchen will be present to ensure that essential personnel respect required social distancing protocols.

C) Veterinarians & Trainers – Stable Protocols (complete Maryland Racing Commission Regulatory Veterinary protocols attached as Appendix A):

- Maryland Racing Commission regulatory veterinarians must wear face coverings throughout their duties.
- Each barn must designate one point-of-contact individual to interact with their veterinarian.
- Veterinarians must follow strict handwashing and hand sanitization protocols between barns and examinations
- Trainers are limited to essential personnel only in their designated barns
- Only one person is permitted in the tack rooms and/or offices at any given time
- Barn equipment are assigned to specific personnel only.
- Tack and barn equipment must not be stored with other equipment until it has been cleaned and sanitized daily.

D) Sanitization:

- Portable hand-wash stations have been installed throughout the facility and are sanitized regularly
- Disposable and portable hand sanitizers have been installed throughout the property and are sanitized regularly
- All MJC facilities are subject to enhanced cleaning and sanitization protocols

E) Dormitories:

- Stable area security and a wellness team have been established to enable enhanced monitoring of dormitory residents for regular temperature and general fair health checks. Suspected ill individuals or those with elevated temperatures are immediately referred to the senior Security officer and/or Health & Safety Director for next-step assessment.
- MJC Health & Safety and Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association (MTHA) representative will arrange doctor visits or e-health options through MedStar Health to effect rapid assessment for suspected resident illnesses.
- Suspected ill residents must immediately isolate or quarantine until doctor clearance achieved or a negative Covid-19 test is received.
- Certain dormitory rooms are reserved as quarantine/isolation rooms and rental RV units are on same-day standby for immediate quarantine/isolation resource if needed.

**Live Racing Facilities:**

Non-essential personnel are not permitted to enter the facility

- Non-essential personnel include all public service employees (e.g., food service, wagering tellers, ushers, admission staff, etc.).
- To limit outside exposure, no owners, media or customers are allowed to enter the grounds at any time.
- No guests, no exceptions.

During a live race day, Security and EMT's will be present at the Grandstand Horsemen's entrance to record temperatures, and control access to essential personnel demonstrating fair health only.

Hand sanitization stations are positioned at the Horsemen's entrance and the saddling paddock.

Trainers and their essential staff, officials in the saddling paddock, outriders, escort pony riders, and starting gate staff are required to wear face coverings and gloves throughout the raceday.

A) Grandstand:

- The Grandstand is closed to the public and horsemen.
- The winners' circle is closed.

B) Saddling Paddock:

- Only trainers, trainers' designated staff, and essential personnel licensed by the Maryland Racing Commission are permitted on the track or in the saddling paddock in the afternoon.
- No congregating in the saddling barn will be permitted.
- Trainers and their designated staff (not more than one groom per horse) must only attend the saddling and racing areas for their respective race and must immediately depart these facilities prior to the saddling for subsequent races.
- Only trainers and one groom per horse may accompany their horse into the saddling paddock. Each horse shall be tacked promptly and the trainer or the groom must exit the saddling barn thereafter.
- When possible for short-field races, horses will be saddled in every second stall, maximizing space between entrants.
- Saddling stalls will be cleared of manure and then disinfected with a bleach solution between each race.

C) Jockeys' Room and Jockeys' Room Protocols:

- All jockeys, valets and officials will have their temperatures tested daily prior to entry. Any jockey or official showing signs of illness will be denied access to the premises
- Only jockeys scheduled to ride in races, necessary Jockeys' Room officials, and designated valets are permitted entry to the Jockeys' Room.
- Additional jockeys' quarters have been installed to enable social distancing, as follows:
  - Female jockeys will remain in regular Jockeys' Room facilities.
  - The male jockey colony will locate primarily in Tips restaurant with overflow in the annexed trailer (photo).
- The sauna in the jockeys' room is closed.
- Jockeys, valets and officials must not congregate or loiter in the Jockeys' Room or annexed jockeys' spaces between races or before/after the racecard.
- All jockeys are required to wear gloves, including during races, and are required to change to clean gloves for each race.



- The jockey colony is limited to 24 Maryland-based riders based upon effective distancing capacity within the existing and annexed Jockeys' Room facilities.
- Each night after live racing the full Jockeys' Room facilities will be sanitized, as follows:
  - All surfaces will be sprayed with a disinfectant known to be effective against SARS-CoV-2. Surfaces will be allowed to remain wet for a period of time consistent with manufacturers' directions. Surfaces will then be wiped with a clean cloth.
  - Floor will be mopped with a bleach solution.
  - All linens, towels, and cleaning rags will be washed in hot water.

D) Starting Gate

- All starting gate personnel are required to wear face coverings and gloves, and replace their gloves for each race.
- All starting gate stalls will be disinfected between races

E) Ambulance and Safety Resources

- Maryland Regulatory Veterinary protocols, including horse ambulance procedures, are attached as Appendix A.
- Human medical resources, including the track doctor and ambulance attendants, will self-isolate at all times unless an on-track emergency arises. PPE, as dictated by paramedic and health professional standards, must be available and, where possible, implemented for incident response. Emergency medical clinicians shall follow the Maryland Medical Protocols for Emergency Medical Services during any emergency response, as well as any guidance from the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical System Services regarding updated PPE use.

F) Maryland Racing Commission Staff and Officials

- Three MRC Stewards will officiate from standard stewarding positions implementing social distancing at all times and wearing face-coverings throughout the race day.
- Two licensing staff persons will operate out of the existing office. A six-foot division shall be marked on the licensing office floor. License office visitors shall gain access to this office one-at-a-time. Issuance of licenses and other business is limited to only actions necessary for that day's race card (in-today owners and trainers licenses only).
- MRC investigators will maintain social distance at all times, will wear face-coverings throughout the race day, and will not attend their normal offices at anytime together or with other persons.
- Regulatory veterinarians, the Lasix clerk and detention barn staff shall operate consistent with the Maryland Regulatory Veterinary protocols attached as Appendix A.

G) Additional Race Day Personnel

Certain race day personnel must be present at Laurel Park to execute live racing duties, but their functions allow for their complete isolation and social distancing during the racecard. These

personnel may not exit their workspace (i.e., vehicle, camera position) where there may otherwise be physical proximity to other personnel. These essential personnel include:

- Tractor Drivers and Water Truck Drivers
- Camera Operators
- Chart caller
- Simulcast tv commentator
- Tote operator
- Horsemen's Bookkeeper – all business by phone and internet, no business in-person.

H) Racing Office:

- The Racing Office will station at its normal location, but a reduced staff with workstations expanded into surrounding building footprint will maximize distancing.
- Jockey agents and horsemen are not permitted in the Racing Office at any time
- Entries for all races will be taken by telephone only
- Post-position draws will be conducted via teleconference only
- All racing officials in the Racing Office must wear face coverings

## COVID-19: Live Racing Protocols for Regulatory Veterinarians and Detention Barn

April 27, 2020

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### SCOPE

This document covers the best practices and guidelines for minimizing the spread of human infectious diseases during:

- Examination of horses for training
- Observation of training and racing, including responding to incidents on the racetrack
- Furosemide (Lasix) administration
- Any other interaction with TSG staff, trainers or trainers' staff, jockeys

### RESPONSIBILITIES

The Regulatory and Lasix veterinarians are responsible for the following:

- Minimizing the risk of spread of human infectious diseases in the case of widespread viral outbreaks or pandemics

### STAFF

The normal raceday requires four regulatory veterinarians, their adapted duties are as follows:

- Mornings: All four veterinarians perform independent, isolated pre-race examinations.
- Race afternoons:
  - One veterinarian oversees detention barn,
  - One veterinarian assigned to on-track duties in the 'chase truck',
  - One veterinarian attends saddling and unsaddling, and
  - One veterinarian, may adopt administrative functions working in isolation.
- Each veterinarian has their own equipment and there is no need therefore to share equipment nor an office space. The veterinarians will implement face coverings and gloves throughout their duties.

The Lasix Clerk is an administrative position that may be achieved working from home on racedays, with minimal on-site, solo office attendance on non-race dates.

The Detention Barn supervisor minimally shares an office with the detention barn veterinarian. This space and the veterinarians' low usage ought to be sufficient to effect distancing needs.

In normal conditions detention barn staff can number up to 11. It is expected this routine reduces substantially with considerations to reduced racecards and numbers of tests per race. Detention barn staff are assigned individual races to work. These employees escort post-race test horses from unsaddling to the Detention Barn, observe those horses during cool-out, and then are in a stall alone with the horse to catch a urine sample. These employees will implement face coverings and gloves, and may readily maintain distancing throughout the raceday.

#### PROCEDURES

- At all times, all Veterinarians should follow current recommended guidelines from the CDC
- During visits to the backside (barn area), including examinations of working horses, Regulatory Veterinarians and Lasix Veterinarians should observe the following:
  1. Wear a face coverings – please note, these should be changed daily and conserved.
  2. Maintain a 6-foot distance from trainers and staff whenever possible.
  3. Do not shake hands or come into other physical contact with trainers or staff.
  4. Do not share pens or other equipment.
  5. Wash hands or use hand sanitizer between each barn at a minimum.
- During observation of training or racing, Regulatory Veterinarians should observe the following:
  1. Maintain a 6-foot distance from staff and horsemen
  2. Cover mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing
  3. Do not shake hands or come into other physical contact with staff or horsemen
  4. Do not share pens or equipment
  5. Wash hands or use hand sanitizer between each barn at a minimum
- When providing furosemide administration, Lasix Veterinarians should observe the following:
  1. Maintain a 6-foot distance from staff and horsemen
  2. Ask the individual holding the horse to stay on the other side of the horse while furosemide is administered, if possible
  3. Do not shake hands or come into other physical contact with staff or horsemen
  4. Do not share pens or equipment
  5. Wash hands or use hand sanitizer between each barn at a minimum
- If responding to an incident on the racetrack, Regulatory Veterinarians should observe the following:
  1. Wear a mask and gloves
  2. Put the care of the horse first, but attempt to maintain distance from others attending to the scene when possible
  3. Limit the number of people on the scene to required individuals only
    - a. The use of screens is suspended



- b. For most emergencies, the horse ambulance driver, the employee holding the horse, and the Regulatory Veterinarian should be sufficient. The veterinarian on the scene can request additional assistance as needed through the outriders
  4. Only one person should ride in the ambulance with the horse – no grooms or trainers should be in the horse ambulance at any time
  5. Wash hands or use hand sanitizer following the incident and interaction with others
- When interacting with other veterinarians or other staff, Regulatory Veterinarians should observe the following:
    1. Maintain a 6-foot distance whenever possible
    2. Wear a mask and gloves
    3. Do not shake hands or come into other physical contact
    4. Cover mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing
    5. Do not share supplies unless necessary and sanitize shared equipment such as radios
    6. Wash hands or use hand sanitizer frequently
  - If a Regulatory Veterinarian feels sick or is displaying symptoms consistent with the current infectious disease, the Regulatory Veterinarian will:
    1. Notify the Equine Welfare and Medical Director (EMD).
    2. Notify fellow Regulatory Veterinarians
    3. Stay home during duration of symptoms or as mandated by local health authorities and track policy
  - If a Regulatory Veterinarian or Lasix Veterinarian receives a positive test result or diagnosis of the infectious disease, the Regulatory Veterinarian will:
    1. Notify the Equine Welfare and Medical Director; the EMD will work with the Regulatory Veterinarian to identify and notify veterinarians, staff or trainers that they have been in contact with or could have been exposed to the virus. The CVO will communicate with the appropriate individuals at each track and TSG corporate.
    2. Self-isolate for 14 days and seek medical care as needed
  - Detention barn personnel should observe the following:
    1. Wear a face coverings and gloves – the face covering should be changed daily, and the gloves should be changed between horses
    2. Maintain a 6-foot distance from trainers and trainers' staff, and other detention barn personnel
    3. Cover mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing
    4. Do not shake hands or come into other physical contact with staff or horsemen
    5. Ask the individual holding the horse to stay on the other side of the horse while being identified and during blood draw, if possible
    6. Do not share pens or equipment – the requirement for signature of witness is suspended. The witness name and badge number will be written on the card in view of the camera
    7. Wash hands or use hand sanitizer between each horse at a minimum



8. Refrigerator/freezer handles will be sanitized daily
9. The detention barn supervisor and detention barn Regulatory Veterinarian will be the only persons with access to the refrigerator and freezer.



# MedStar Health

## COVID-19 Return to Sports Medical Considerations:

The foundation of maintaining health and a safe return to activity requires adherence to four key principles, the 4T's: Tempering Risk, Training, Testing, and Treatment

These measures build upon infection prevention practices including hand hygiene, environmental disinfection and social distancing:

### 1. Tempering Risk:

Minimizing risk of disease outbreak and spread is the central mission of any protocol designed to reopen venues and events. The plan for safe resumption of activity includes:

- Minimizing staff to include essential personnel only
- Use of mitigation strategies for shared spaces and equipment
- Relative risk mitigation/isolation of athletes when not engaged in sports related activities

Risk mitigation strategies will also include appropriate contact tracing and the quarantine of anyone who has close contact with any individual who tests positive for COVID-19, both critical to limiting spread of the disease.

Therefore, contact tracing, that is, the ability to identify everyone a patient has been in contact with during a period of time, is of critical importance. The closed community and scheduled routine of the racetrack can facilitate this critical aspect of disease prevention. However, this is only effective if all staff comply with general infection prevention practices, social distancing, travel restrictions, and limiting exposure to persons outside of the bubble environment track community.

Proper infection prevention practices are a critical part of tempering the risk of disease spread and begin with proper hand hygiene, the use personal protective equipment (PPE) such as masks, and routine environmental disinfection of all common areas and high touch surfaces. Hand hygiene can be performed using an alcohol-based hand rub with at least 60% alcohol content or traditional soap and water. Manual disinfection (wiping surfaces with an EPA registered disinfectant effective against COVID-19 and using appropriate contact time) of surfaces is required and cannot be replaced by spraying or aerosolized disinfectant solutions or ultraviolet (UV) light treatments. Spraying, aerosolized cleaning, and UV methods could be adjuncts to manual scrubbing & wiping of surfaces.

In addition to routine environmental disinfection, shared treatment and rehabilitation facilities such as saunas, cryochambers, & hot or cold tubs should not be in use at any training facility or competition venue. Other equipment such as training room tables, scales, rehabilitation equipment, exercise bands, weight equipment, etc. should be thoroughly disinfected with an EPA registered disinfectant effective against COVID-19 after each use. Careful attention should be paid to the specified contact time for each approved disinfectant. In addition, sports which have weight classes or minimum/maximum weights allowable may have those limits adjusted as appropriate as determined by the Medical Director for each sport.

Currently, there are no recommendations that include holding events with spectators. Over time, recommendations such as those found in the World Health Organization (WHO) and United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee (USOPC) COVID-19 risk assessment guidelines may help inform future decisions regarding the admittance of spectators.

To ensure our associates' health and safety, all MedStar Health associates providing care should follow established MedStar Standards for infection prevention practices including hand hygiene, PPE, universal masking and social distancing. MedStar Health Associates will also follow MedStar Health Occupational Health Guidelines.

## 2. Training:

In the time of COVID-19, it is critical that we consider the health and conditioning status of all athletes prior to return to competition. At a minimum, any athlete who has been ill should be cleared by the Medical Director prior to participation. Quarantine of athletes is appropriate after travel or when they are introduced into a new environment. Careful evaluation of cardiovascular, musculoskeletal, and psychological readiness for training and competition should take place prior to return in order to minimize the risk of injury.

## 3. Testing:

Several testing modalities exist but are still indicated only for symptomatic and high-risk individuals. Testing of jockeys and racetrack staff will be at the discretion of the Medical Director and will follow MedStar Health guidelines. The timing and administration of testing will be dictated by Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and WHO guidelines, as well as by national and local availability of tests.

## 4. Treatment:

Though there is no definitive treatment for COVID-19, appropriate medical care is critically important both for the individual patient and to prevent further spread. In the case of any jockey or staff with symptoms or suspected illness, the track Medical Director will arrange for screening and testing per current Medstar Health protocol. If additional medical treatment is required, the individual will be directed to the appropriate facility.

Isolation of any persons with known or suspected illness is critical to prevent the spread of illness. Those who test positive for COVID-19 will remain in isolation for a minimum of 14 days or until cleared by the track Medical Director. Quarantine of those who have been in close contact with any individual who is known or suspected positive for COVID-19 will also be required for 14 days.