

New Hope Equine Assisted Therapy

COVID-19 Infection Control Plan for Outdoor Mounted Lessons

All

- 1) No one will be allowed on property for 14 days since the date that they returned from travelling to and from a “hot spot” as designated by the CDC policies, or if they live with someone who has travelled. Everyone will be screened for travel to and from a “hot spot” or out of the country.
- 2) If any person, who was on property, tests positive or is exposed to someone who tests positive for COVID-19, they must inform us and anyone who was on site at the time of possible exposure will be contacted immediately.
- 3) No one with signs or symptoms should come to the facility. Signs and symptoms include: Fever, loss of sense of smell or taste, dizziness, vomiting, diarrhea, or a low pulse ox reading.
 - a. Instructors will do a verbal health check with riders and volunteers at the beginning of every lesson asking about: signs and symptoms, travel, and exposure. Documentation will be recorded in schooling/therapy notes.
- 4) Upon arrival, everyone will wash their hands at a hand washing station following CDC guidelines.

Rider Screening

- 1) A customized Risk Benefit Assessment will be completed for each rider prior to acceptance into the semester program. This assessment will also include a copy of the New Hope COVID-19 Infection Control Policies for Mounted Lessons. This form will be signed by the family and the Instructor.
 - a. If a risk/benefit assessment is performed, and a significant greater risk is determined, particularly with riders with respiratory or immune issues, an alternate option to riding may be explored.
 - b. A risk/benefit assessment may indicate specific considerations; this will be a case-by-case basis.
 - c. If the risk/benefit assessment reveals that the rider would be at greater potential of exposing others, for instance, a person who sneezes a lot; the rider would be required to wear a mask.
- 2) For now, only riders who do not require a full-time thigh hold will be able to participate in mounted horse lessons due to close proximity of riders to volunteers for an extended period. The reasoning for this policy is that volunteers would be at an angle in front and below the riders for an extended period of time.

Family/Rider Procedures

- 1) Families should bring the minimum number of people needed to care for the rider to help limit the number of people on site.
- 2) Riders will be strongly encouraged to have their own helmets. If they are using one of New Hope's helmets, then the instructor will retrieve the helmet from the tack room. Helmets will be sanitized between each use and may be assigned to specific riders.
- 3) Riders can bring their own clean reins with input from instructors for rein selection.
- 4) At this time, riders cannot wear riding gloves.
- 5) Riders will wait in cars until a volunteer/instructor comes to get them at the start of a lesson. The rider will wash their hands, and then they or a parent *must* sign them in before they walk to the mounting block.
- 6) Riders are required to wear a mask until they are securely transferred and mounted.
- 7) Riders will be dismounted and exited one at a time and are required to wear a mask during the dismount.
- 8) Families will be asked to leave promptly after class to allow for cleaning procedures and to limit the number of people on site.

Volunteers

- 1) In order to keep volunteers engaged and to maximize volunteer retention, we may need to limit volunteers to fewer lessons. Thus, maintaining a small number of people on site but maximizing number of people engaged in program.
- 2) Volunteers are required to wash their hands and sign-in upon arrival.
- 3) Volunteers will wear a face mask when they are within 6 feet of other people.
- 4) Volunteers are asked to bring their own masks.
- 5) Volunteers should not wear medical gloves, as they are not effective in preventing COVID-19 transmission.
- 6) Volunteers will be trained in proper face mask use, hand washing techniques and signs/symptoms of COVID-19. Training will be documented.

Staff

- 1) Instructors will each have an infection-control apron. The apron will contain supplies to mitigate contamination.
- 2) Instructors will wear their masks whenever within 6 feet of student(s)/rider(s).
- 3) Staff have recently been trained in COVID-19 symptoms, Handwashing/ Eye/Face Safety, Personal Protective Equipment use, Blood Born Pathogen, and Safe Biohazard Disposal practices.
- 4) To limit face-to-face contact, instructors will provide assistance to riders from the side or back as much as possible.
- 5) Staff will be giving verbal reminders of safety protocol.

Programming

- 1) New Hope will be following Denton County guidelines for lessons.
- 2) There will be set weekly activities using easily washed objects.
- 3) The tack room will have restricted access for authorized personnel only.

Tack

- 1) The rail will be used to set out clean tack. *Only staff or volunteers will enter tack room.*
- 2) There will be a volunteer or staff member designated for cleaning.
- 3) Used tack will go on a designated saddle rack to be cleaned before going back into the tack room or used again.
- 4) All tack will be cleaned by staff or volunteers following the new procedures.

Facility

- 1) A staff member or volunteer will spray gate latches, quick-release snaps, doorknobs, light switches, ramp rails, etc., with cleaning solution at the end of the day.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this document, please contact us.

Parent/Rider Signature _____ **Date:** _____

Instructor Signature _____ **Date:** _____