



## **COVID-19 Equine Event Guidelines**

In accordance with Gov. Abbott's Open Texas Report, Highlander Ranch has developed a plan of action in order to produce a quality equine event while complying with statewide and local restrictions. While there is no way to eliminate all risks related to COVID-19, the following requirements and recommendations are aimed to decrease the risk of infection by following the guidance from federal, state, local and other public health officials.

### **General Procedures:**

**All** participants, including service providers, support personnel, employees, competitors, and spectators, must wear masks or face coverings (covering nose and mouth) when in any enclosed area such as a barn, office or restroom. Everyone must wear a mask or face covering when out-of-doors but within six feet of others unless:

- \*others are members of the same household or
- \*others are members of a group attending the event together.

A participant may choose to wear a facemask or face covering when mounted on a horse and cannot be disqualified or penalized for doing so while competing.

No food or drink will be available for sale on site.

Show offices will be located in the concession stand and will be limited to essential staff only. One person at a time will be allowed in the show office. All competitors are encouraged to complete entry forms electronically prior to the show at <https://showsignup.com/> and to email current Coggins test and completed release forms to [aedwards@mclennan.edu](mailto:aedwards@mclennan.edu) or [paulasue@showsignup.com](mailto:paulasue@showsignup.com).

### **Barns and Arenas and Parking Areas:**

When parking horse trailers, leave extra space between trailers so that groups can socially distance from one another.

Only exhibitors and necessary support personnel will be allowed in the barns. A parent and/or coach or trainer for youth under 18 will be considered as necessary support personnel.

Entrance/exit to the show arena will be arranged so that exhibitors are not coming in close contact when entering and exiting the arenas.

The number of people allowed at the entrance/exit gate and in the arena will be controlled. No more than 1 person will be allowed with the exhibitor at the end gate.

Judges, scribes, arena stewards, announcers, gate personnel and other arena staff will wear face coverings if within six feet of another person.

In classes where participants compete collectively, show management will determine the maximum number of animals permitted in the arena, and then communicate with participants if classes will be divided and held in one or more sections. Depending on regulations, exhibitors/contestants may be restricted from going to holding/warm up arenas until 30 minutes prior to their competition.

To minimize contact, communication will involve radios, phones, announcements, etc.

### **Spectator Protocols:**

Maintain 6 feet of separation between individuals seated on bleachers or tables, except as follows:

- \*two or more members of the same household or

- \*those who are attending the event together

can sit adjacent to one another, leaving 6 feet of separation between groups.

Remaining in vehicles or in separate areas is strongly recommended.

### **Office Procedures:**

All competitors are strongly encouraged to submit entries, Coggins, and release forms electronically in advance to Paula Sue Swope at <https://showsignup.com/>. Coggins and release forms may also be emailed to Aimee Edwards at [aedwards@mclennan.edu](mailto:aedwards@mclennan.edu).

The show office will be in the concession stand. A staff member will be outside with the packets for competitors who have completed early entries. Competitors will line up to the left of the show office to get their packets, allowing for appropriate social distancing.

Competitors who are entering the day of the show will line up to the right of the show office, allowing for appropriate social distancing. One person at a time will enter the show office to complete paperwork.

Add and scratch sheets will be placed on a table outside of the show office. Please complete those as needed and give to the announcer or gate person who will deliver the sheets to the show office.

When checking out after the show, please line up to the right of the show office, allowing for appropriate social distancing. One person at a time will enter the show office to complete check-out.

**Access:**

**Anyone who exhibits COVID-19 symptoms or has been in contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 within the 14 days prior to the event cannot enter the grounds and should self-quarantine at home.** These individuals are encouraged to contact their health care provider immediately for further medical advice and must obtain documented clearance from their health care provider before entering the grounds. Participants must assume responsibility for themselves and their own staff.

**Participants are required to comply with these and any additional competition organizer requirements at all times while present on Highlander Ranch. Failure to do so may result in expulsion from the grounds.**

**Individuals who are a higher risk of infection should consider their own health status before attending a public event. Anyone with symptoms of COVID-19 must stay home. See the following link for more details:**

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>