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*Murieta Equestrian Center*

**COVID-19 Protocol & Guidelines for  
Opening and Operating Horse Shows  
Health Protocols and Procedures**

The following guidelines have been put in place in accordance with the recommendations of the Center for Disease Control (CDC), the World Health Organization (WHO), the United States Equestrian Federation (USEF) and the Arabian Horse Association (AHA) regarding social distancing and public health for showing at Murieta Equine Complex (MHC).

MEC is dedicated to the welfare and safety of its horses and competitors. We are providing the following guidelines as a resource to assist our Show Producers and participants in mitigating their exposure to COVID-19. These guidelines are effective immediately and will be revised and updated as additional information and requirements are communicated by Federal, State and local authorities, the USEF and AHA.

We continue to work with the County Health Department with updates on the rapidly evolving situation and changing information and are following all recommended CDC guidelines.

**General Facility Guidelines:**

MEC will enforce social distancing throughout competition facilities, with placement of 6-foot markers in all key waiting areas.

Masks are to be worn by everyone on the showgrounds unless riding horses.

All seating and bleachers have been removed or restricted to prevent/limit people gathering or sitting.

No spectators or visitors permitted on facility grounds.

All VIP and social gatherings are prohibited during horse shows until social distancing guidelines and restrictions are removed.

Exhibitors and trainers must assume responsibility for themselves and their staff while on the MEC show grounds. If anyone violates MEC rules and guidelines, they will be asked to leave.

There will be a designated isolation trailer onsite to hold any symptomatic person at the venue while awaiting transportation to a medical facility.

**Cleaning/Sanitizing**

Additional cleaning crews are in place and frequency of cleaning has been increased in high touch areas, such as restrooms, entry doors and hand railings.

All restroom outer doors will remain open whenever possible.

Additional sanitizers and sanitizer stations have been added throughout the facility.

### **Checklist Prior to the Show:**

Exhibitors are asked to refrain from attending the show if they have been in contact with anyone exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms within the last 14 days, have a fever or other symptoms, or are immune-compromised.

Trainers and Exhibitors: Bring all your personal protection equipment (PPE) supplies with you (gloves, masks, sanitizer, etc.) for yourself and your personnel/staff. Local stores may be out or have limited supply. It is strongly recommended that trainers/exhibitors provide thermometers for staff and require daily monitoring. Anyone with a fever over 99.5 degrees F should not enter the show grounds or should leave MEC at once.

Regularly sanitize all equipment being handled including, but not limited to, hoses, stable doors, buckets, tack, grooming, and feeding and stall cleaning materials after each use.

Exhibitors are encouraged to complete all paperwork **at least 14 days** prior to the show and be submitted to the show personnel. This would include signatures on the waivers, AHA and/or USEF memberships, Safe Sport, etc.

MEC Waiver must be signed and on file in show office.

Exhibitors are encouraged to bring only necessary personnel to minimize crowding and contact in barn areas, warm-up arenas, and surrounding the show arena.

Feed and bedding orders to be placed by phone, text or email.

### **Show Office:**

An "in" door and an "out" door entrance to show office & facility building, along with guest occupancy limits for each area, are clearly posted and must be observed.

Please keep at least six-feet distancing from others at all times.

Appointments are encouraged as the waiting area will be limited.

Show Office capacity will be limited to one person per actively staffed front desk personnel.

Show Office personnel will have a protective barrier separating them from exhibitors.

When possible, doors will be left open during check-in or periods of high traffic for air flow.

Show Office will provide sanitizing wipes and/or sanitize entry and exit points of Office.

With these no-contact options, you can limit your interaction with the Show Office by using email or texting. You will only need to come in to submit your open check and pick up back numbers.

Scratch, Rider Changes, and Horse Equitation Change forms will be available in the Show Office.

Class Sheets, Splits, Results and scoresheets will be posted online ONLY.

**Go Order and Draws will be online and at other appropriate locations (In Gate). Exhibitors are encouraged to use the online to check the posted draws. Do not crowd the gate person.**

Check out will be done via email after the show has ended – there will be no fines for not coming in to check out at the end of the show.

### **Arenas:**

People shall not congregate in groups **larger than 10** and must follow social distancing guidelines.

Riders and individuals on foot must keep **a distance of at least 6 feet** between them at all times.

No foot traffic (including trainers, family, etc.) allowed at any gate area.

Riders shall maintain social distancing guidelines at all times including, but not limited to, the warm-up and show arenas.

There will be a limit to two people per horse in the Warm-Up Arena.

In arenas where there is “moat-like rail,” only trainers/instructors are allowed.

***Please respect all Show Personnel who will be patrolling all areas to maintain compliance with COVID-19 guidelines.***

### **Barn Areas:**

Access to stabling areas is restricted to grooms, trainers and essential personnel only.

If you have a professional service provider (i.e. braiders, banders, farriers, etc.) tending to your horses, please ask them to review these protocols and sanitize between clients.

## **Show Producer/Management Guidelines & Best Practices**

- Masks to be worn in Show Office by show staff.
- Show staff to undertake regular cleaning & sanitizing of show office(s) and common areas for show staff throughout event (breakrooms, restroom, show offices).
- Utilize “in” door and an “out” door and limit the number of people in Show Office or adjust Show Office flow to utilize walk-up window.
- Limit entries, coordinate start times and show schedule to reduce the number of people on the grounds at one time, and better manage congregation of horses and people.
- New MEC waivers to be completed by all entering grounds.
- Encourage all adds, scratches, feed & bedding orders, and billing/invoice to be completed online or by phone.
- Show staff and stewards to review and adhere to the maximum number of horses permitted in each competition area at one time, address exhibitors gathering in groups, and split classes if needed.
- Show management to create a method of distributing awards, ribbons and prizes that reduces or eliminates hand-to-hand contact.
- Schooling equipment/jumps – provide sanitizing spray/wipes at each area. Anyone handling equipment must wear gloves and equipment must be wiped down between each use.
- Clearly communicate to exhibitors and trainers that access to stabling areas is restricted to grooms, trainers and essential personnel.
- In stabling areas, all barn groups must be separated with no less than one open stall between each group. Stable areas with aiseways will not face each other, except when they are from the same barn group.
- Recommend creating appointment times for check out.
- If an exhibitor, trainer, groom or barn staff, show staff or other guest on the facility grounds becomes sick, MEC Management must be notified **immediately** and appropriate measures taken.
- Shows not governed by USEF are required to complete Protocol Questionnaire to clearly and comprehensively demonstrate how they will comply with MEC Show Producer Guidelines & Best Practices.

Please remember the COVID-19 pandemic is fluid and recommendations are constantly changing.

For the latest updates, go to:

<https://www.arabianhorses.org/additional/news/covid-19-resources.html>

<https://www.usef.org/media/coronavirus-resources>