



## Agriculture & NYS Horse Breeding Development Fund

### Protocols for NYS County Fair Racing 2020

Issued: July 3, 2020

Racing at County Fair venues in 2020 is predicated on state and local officials permitting this activity. These protocols are a starting point and may not cover all precautions necessary. The decisions of government or health officials may guide additional requirements or restrictions at venues. In addition, the decision of those officials, the fair board/association and the Agriculture and New York State Horse Breeding Development Fund must be followed in order to race. Those who do not follow protocols will not be able to race, will have to vacate the grounds, and will not be due a refund of declaration or staking fees. Questions may be directed to the individual fair or to Kelly in the NYSS office at 518-388-0224.

#### **Horsemen Protocols**

##### **Admittance to the Fairgrounds:**

\*All trucks and trailers will be limited to a single point of entry. Look for signage or directions on site.

\*Upon arrival, all participants will have their temperature taken. Anyone displaying a temperature over 100.0°F will not be allowed entry to the grounds.

\*All people entering fairgrounds will fill out a Covid-19 questionnaire. Anyone responding positively to any of the survey questions or not signing the form will not be allowed entry to the fairgrounds. Participants are strongly encouraged to print out and complete questionnaire at home and bring day of racing to speed entry to fairgrounds.

\*The number of people admitted with each horse will be limited to two (2) people (ie: the trainer and groom). People who are not necessary to race the horse should not attend. Exceptions to this must be justified and must be approved in advance by the Ag Fund (call 518-388-0224 for Kelly). Every effort should be made to limit the number of people attending. Catch drivers must be listed to drive in the program to be admitted. All individuals entering the grounds must be screened and their attendance recorded.

\*Anyone wishing to arrive at the fairgrounds the day before should check availability and make arrangements directly with the fair. The same requirements as above will be necessary.

\*As much as possible, participants are encouraged to not arrive more than three (3) hours before post time so staff is in place for entry screening. If you arrive before that, you may not enter the grounds until you have been screened by an approved individual of the fair or NYSS.

**\*Current Coggins and Rabies certificates:** Participants are strongly encouraged to send current proof of Coggins and Rabies for each horse to the Ag Fund in advance so they can be recorded in the USTA system, or recorded by the race office at your local pari-mutual track. If this is done, participants will not have to routinely show these documents at each fair to help limit contact at the race office. The fairgrounds will receive a report of those horses with current documents on file; all others will still be required to produce documents upon entry to the fairgrounds. This plan has been approved by the State Veterinarian. Even if documents are recorded, it is still required that horses travel with current proof of Coggins and Rabies and will be subject to random document checks at the fairgrounds. Be prepared to provide when requested.

*To send current Coggins and Rabies to the Ag Fund, email to [kelly.young@gaming.ny.gov](mailto:kelly.young@gaming.ny.gov) or fax to 518-388-2791. The horse's name, test date and lab where the test was conducted must be clearly visible. Include your contact information if there are any questions.*

### **Social Distancing and Face Masks:**

\*Participants must practice physical distancing by standing at least six feet away from other groups of people not traveling with them while standing in lines or moving around the property, to the extent possible.

\*Any time any person must come within six feet of another, at a minimum, an acceptable face covering must be worn. Acceptable face coverings include but are not limited to cloth (e.g. homemade sewn, quick cut, bandana) and surgical masks, unless the nature of the work requires stricter PPE e.g. N95 respirator, face shield. Participants in and around shared barn areas should wear masks at all times.

\*Groups of not more than 10 people are allowed at any one time at any one place, and there should be no congregating anywhere.

\*It is requested that horses race out of trailers as much as possible to facilitate social distancing and eliminate the sanitizing needs of barn areas.

\* Limit the sharing of objects (e.g. buckets, hoses) and discourage touching of shared surfaces; or, when in contact with shared objects or frequently touched areas, wear gloves (trade-appropriate or medical); or, sanitize or wash hands before and after contact.

\* Winners circle presentations are not recommended. However, the winning horse and driver may return to the winner's circle for a picture. (No spectators will be allowed in the picture.)

\* Grandstand and race-viewing is limited to only the employees necessary to ensure the integrity of the race. Owners, trainers, or spectators shall not be permitted to view from the grandstand. Upon such time as the phased re-opening of a specific region permits viewing from the grandstand, and the individual fair decides to permit this, the conditions and terms for viewing will be determined and managed by the fair.

\*Saddle Pads may be shared among horses in the same stable which are traveling with the same people. Otherwise, saddle pads that need to be used more than once in a day will be sanitized by Ag Fund staff before being used by another horse. All saddle pads will be sanitized at the end of the race program. Please assist with this by returning saddle pads promptly.

## Fairgrounds Protocols

***Fairs are responsible for ensuring compliance with federal, state and local requirements and guidelines. The following are racing-specific protocols that are intended to assist.***

\*Establish one entry point for racing participants and clearly indicate it with signage.

\*Temperature and screening questionnaire must be completed before participants are admitted to the grounds. The Ag Fund will provide the questionnaire and staff to assist with this on race day. A complete list of attendees must be maintained to allow for contact tracing if necessary.

\*Tightly confined spaces (e.g. race office, bathrooms) should be occupied by only one individual at a time, unless all occupants are wearing face coverings. If occupied by more than one person, keep occupancy under 50% of maximum capacity.

\*Post social distancing markers using tape or signs that denote 6 ft. of spacing in commonly used and other applicable areas on the site.

\*Establish and maintain a listing of all non-horsemen personnel necessary to access the grounds. Access to grounds shall be limited to those on the list and horsemen entering through the protocols listed above. A list of all participants screened and admitted to grounds is necessary to maintain on hand for contact tracing, if necessary. Ag Fund staff will assist with the racing participants list.

\*Grandstand and race-viewing is limited to only the employees necessary to ensure the integrity of the race. Owners, trainers, or spectators shall not be permitted to view from the grandstand. Upon such time as the phased re-opening of a specific region permits viewing from the grandstand, and the individual fair decides to permit this, the conditions and terms for viewing will be determined and managed by the fair.

\*On-site screeners should wear appropriate PPE, including at a minimum, a face covering and gloves.

\*Fairs must post signs throughout the site, consistent with Department of Health COVID-19 signage. Fairs can develop their own customized signage specific to their grounds or setting, provided that such signage is consistent with the Department's signage. Signage should be used to remind participants to:

- Cover their nose and mouth with a mask or cloth face-covering when six feet of social distance cannot be maintained.
- Adhere to physical distancing instructions.
- Report symptoms of or exposure to COVID-19
- Follow hand hygiene and cleaning guidelines.
- All signs shall be in English and Spanish.

\*Fair must provide and maintain hand hygiene stations on site, at each barn or facility, and in additional places as needed, as follows:

- For handwashing: soap, running warm water, and disposable paper towels.
- For sanitizer: an alcohol-based hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol for areas where handwashing facilities may not be available or practical.

\*Linked below is the safety plan template developed by the State that needs to be completed and maintained on site. This does not need approval from the Ag Fund.

[https://www.governor.ny.gov/sites/governor.ny.gov/files/atoms/files/NYS\\_BusinessReopeningSafetyPlanTemplate.pdf](https://www.governor.ny.gov/sites/governor.ny.gov/files/atoms/files/NYS_BusinessReopeningSafetyPlanTemplate.pdf)

**Race Office Protocols:**

\*Tightly confined spaces (e.g. race office) should be occupied by only one individual at a time, unless all occupants are wearing face coverings. If occupied by more than one person, keep occupancy under 50% of maximum capacity.

\*Race office staff must wear masks and gloves while performing racing duties. (Collect declaration fees, certify Coggins, and rabies paperwork etc.). It is suggested the race office develop a procedure to limit contact for necessary activities (such as viewing declaration fee checks before they are dropped into a lockbox outside the office).

\*To limit contact between fair staff, racing staff, and participants, race programs and Sire Stakes hats will be in a common space where participants may take one. Participants should do this only while wearing a face covering and with gloved hands or hands that are sanitized before and after.

\*Current Coggins and Rabies certificates: The Ag Fund will provide to fairgrounds a list of horses that have current documentation on file, as recorded with the U.S. Trotting Association. This will help limit race office contact because participants will not have to routinely show these documents at each fair. Those horses without current documentation on file will still have to provide this upon entering the grounds or at the race office. This plan has been approved by the State Veterinarian. Even if documents are recorded, it is still required that horses travel with current proof of Coggins and Rabies and will be subject to random document checks at the fairgrounds by fair or Ag Fund staff.