



ILLINOIS RACING BOARD

Horse Racing in Illinois – COVID19

THE FOLLOWING ARE THE MINIMUM GUIDELINES FOR ALL RACETRACKS

LIVE HORSE RACING PLAN

- 1) For live racing, no patrons will be allowed into the horse racing facility.
- 2) Only licensed, essential personnel for the care of racehorses, and those necessary to conduct live racing, will be allowed on the backstretch of the racetrack. Essential personnel are limited to trainers and assistant trainers, drivers/jockeys, grooms, vets, blacksmiths, IRB staff and required race officials. Racetrack personnel, security and other required staff are considered essential only if they have specific race or horse-related duties that require their presence on the backstretch of the racetrack.
- 3) ALL persons will be subject to symptom checks before being allowed entrance to the grounds. Symptoms may include the following: fever (100.4° or above), cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, chest tightness, extreme fatigue, loss of sense of taste or smell, diarrhea, muscle aches, and headaches. The racetrack will not allow individuals who are sick to enter the premises until they have been cleared by a physician.
- 4) The track will ensure that safety accommodations are provided for racing officials and essential IRB employees. These accommodations will include, at a minimum, ensuring sufficient room for racing officials and IRB employees to perform their work while maintaining a six-foot distance from others, as well as installation of plexiglass protection to separate all individuals whenever social distancing is not ensured.
- 5) Horse owners will not be allowed onto the grounds of the racetrack, unless they are approved, licensed caretakers.
- 6) All essential personnel must wear a face mask (protection that covers the mouth and nose) and gloves at all times. This includes anyone who is preparing their horses in their own barn area, before entering the paddock.
- 7) All other working personal, (IRB employees, starter car, gate crew, ambulance crew, T.V. and camera crew, etc.), even if they are not allowed into the paddock or backstretch area, must follow the same procedures: temperatures taken and symptom checks performed before entering the grounds, wearing masks and gloves at all times.

- 8) Horses will rotate into the paddock once a prior race exits the paddock. The race paddock will be designed for no more than 3 races with no more than 30 horses in the barn at one time to ensure social distancing.
- 9) Horses stabled at the track will remain in their barns and will warm up from their current stall location before going to the paddock for racing. All facilities with stalls shall be set up to have at least one empty stall in between each horse. Stalls for ship-in horses will be assigned after races are drawn and horsemen will be notified.
- 10) Extra monitors will be set up throughout the paddock area to ensure social distancing.
- 11) All barns and paddocks will be sprayed and disinfected nightly. In addition, high touch surfaces such as door handles and light switches will be frequently cleaned and disinfected.
- 12) Following a race, only one person (trainer or groom) will be allowed into the winner's circle to join the horse and driver.
- 13) Social distancing guidelines must be followed by everyone on the grounds at all times, including in locker rooms, showers, break rooms, etc. To the extent possible, communal areas should be closed. Onsite security should be familiar with these guidelines, so they can be properly implemented and enforced.
- 14) Showers should have spacing limitations and a maximum occupancy must be enforced to ensure proper distancing.
- 15) The racetrack will provide educational materials to all personnel about the COVID-19 pandemic, including information regarding transmission, symptoms, testing, necessary safety precautions, and the steps the racetrack is taking to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. To ensure all employees know their rights to raise safety and health concerns, the racetracks will also provide educational materials about the anti-retaliation laws. All materials should be consistent with CDC and IDPH guidance and should be available in languages appropriate to preferred language(s) spoken or read by the employees.
- 16) The racetrack will post signs about proper handwashing in prominent locations and will ensure hand sanitizer and washing stations are available if bathrooms are not available in some locations.
- 17) When possible, equipment should not be shared. All equipment should be sanitized on a regular basis, especially when sharing of equipment is necessary.
- 18) To ensure proper monitoring of backstretch access, access shall be limited to only one gate. Access to the paddock shall also be limited to one entrance, in and out.
- 19) Attendants in the paddock shall be limited to 1 attendant per horse.
- 20) The tracks shall institute a policy to ensure steps are taken to minimize the spread of COVID-19 for trainers and horses coming and going from other states and jurisdictions.

- 21) Tracks must keep a log of the name and contact information for every person that enters the property.
- 22) The tracks and all personnel must immediately report all confirmed cases of COVID-19 to the local health department(s) within the jurisdiction where the track is located.
- 23) All applicable guidelines in this plan shall apply to qualifying races conducted at the tracks.
- 24) In order to commence live racing, the tracks must have a current contract in place with one of the following: Illinois Harness Horsemen's Association; Illinois Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association; or the Illinois Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association.
- 25) Each track must establish its own track-specific "Track Guidelines" that, at a minimum, include all the guidance contained in this document. Each track must also complete and sign the affidavit on the last page of this document. The signed affidavit and the Track Guidelines must be submitted to the Illinois Racing Board and the Illinois Department of Agriculture.

ADDITIONAL THOROUGHBRED GUIDANCE

- 1) VISITORS/GUESTS will not be allowed to access the Backside/Backstretch, Racetrack, Track Apron, Paddock or Jockeys Room. Non-essential personnel are prohibited on the grounds, including all service employees (including but not limited to food service, wager teller, ushers, and admission staff).
- 2) Only licensed and credentialed essential personnel will be granted access to the Backside/Backstretch, Racetrack, Track Apron, Paddock or Jockeys Room.
- 3) A security team should be established to oversee all access control procedures, monitoring and reporting requirements and ensure all suspected or confirmed cases of COVID-19 are properly communicated and documented.
- 4) No wagering or food service in the grandstand.
- 5) The Press Box should be closed to everyone except licensed and credentialed essential personnel.
- 6) All public areas of the grandstand are to be closed including for morning workouts. The apron should be available to trainers in the morning to monitor and observe horses working out.
- 7) Establish a health check station(s) where temperatures can be taken, symptoms checked, and names can be logged before being permitted access to stable area. There must be multiple health check stations at every accessible access gate/entry for the stable area.
- 8) Before being allowed in the stable area all essential personnel must have their temperature taken and be found to be afebrile. A log template may be provided.
- 9) Establish a color-coded wrist band system with a different color representing each day of the week. Colored band must be applied at the health check station and must be worn for the entirety of the day. Access to any not wearing a wrist band with the corresponding day's color should be denied. Trainers or their responsible personnel are accountable for all their employees to ensure essential personnel have had their temperature monitored and approved and thus are wearing the correct corresponding colored band.

- 10) Racetrack management is accountable for all their employees to ensure essential personnel have had their temperature monitored and approved and thus are wearing the correct corresponding colored band.
- 11) Backside dormitory and living areas must be monitored routinely for compliance with these guidelines by security team members and assigned racing personnel.
- 12) Quarantine rooms should be designated for the sole purpose of providing an area for an individual who may be or is COVID-19 positive to be safely isolated from all others, if required. Security team members will need to be involved to ensure these rooms are not accessible to others.
- 13) All incoming van drivers must go through a temperature and symptom check and can be admitted only if they are afebrile and do not describe experiencing any other symptoms. Drivers who are admitted must wear a mask over their nose and mouth and wear gloves when entering to pick up or drop off horses. Drivers and attendants must have minimal contact with any stable personnel.
- 14) All Pony Personnel must wear masks covering their nose and mouth and wear gloves when in contact with jockeys while mounted. Gate crew personnel must wear masks covering their nose and mouth and wear gloves while loading horses in the starting gate and will have no physical contact with any other personnel unless in the best interest of safety.
- 15) All jockeys and essential personnel in the Jockeys' Room (including Valets and Clerk of the Scales) will have their temperatures monitored daily. Anyone showing or experiencing signs or symptoms associated with COVID-19 will be denied access to the premises.
- 16) Lockers and workstations will be spaced a minimum of the required six feet apart. All jockeys will be required to wear riding gloves. Jockeys must maintain a six-foot distance between themselves and others.
- 17) Jockeys are required to leave the Jockeys' Room immediately following their last ride. Jockeys should be encouraged to limit travel. Racetracks should ensure a 14-day mandatory self-quarantine is in effect for all jockeys and personnel who have traveled internationally.
- 18) Jockeys' Room will be sanitized daily.
- 19) The starting gate will be sanitized between each race.
- 20) Sauna and Steam rooms will be closed and non-operational. Stewards should consider adjusting jockey weight requirements.

EDUCATION ON COVID-19

In addition to the above requirements, tracks must provide the following information regarding safety guidelines and access to COVID-19 testing:

- 1) **Infographics:** Tracks should post easy to understand posters, in languages appropriate to preferred language(s) spoken or read by the employees, throughout the grounds with information and pictures about symptoms, proper handwashing, disease transmission, and other safety standards. The Illinois Department of Public Health's (IDPH) website has infographics that can

be utilized (<http://dph.illinois.gov/topics-services/diseases-and-conditions/diseases-a-z-list/coronavirus/media-publications>).

- 2) **Access to Testing:** Tracks should also post information throughout the grounds with information about COVID-19 testing locations in the area. IDPH's website has information regarding testing sites in the State (<http://dph.illinois.gov/testing>). The following are testing sites that are located in closest proximity to the racetracks:

a. Hawthorne: 3501 S Laramie Ave, Cicero, IL 60804

- i. Howard Brown Health & Project Vida, 2659 S. Kedvale Ave, Chicago, IL 60623
 - Hours: 10:00am-4:30pm, 10:00am-3:00pm
 - Days of Operation: Monday-Friday, Saturday
 - Requirements: Flu-like symptoms or direct contact with a known covid19 positive
 - COVID Hotline:773-388-1600
- ii. Alivio: Berwyn, 6447 W. Cermak Rd, Berwyn, IL 60402
 - Hours:8:00am - 8:00pm, 12:00pm - 8:00pm, 10:00am - 6:00pm
 - Days of Operation: Monday/Wednesday, Friday, Saturday
 - Requirements: Must call for screening prior to scheduling appointment.
- iii. Howard Brown Health & Taskforce Prevention, 9 N. Cicero Ave, Chicago, IL 60644
 - Hours: 10:00am-4:30pm, 10:00am-3:00pm
 - Days of Operation: Monday-Friday, Saturday
 - Requirements: Flu-like symptoms or direct contact with a known covid19 positive
 - COVID Hotline:773-388-1600

b. Fairmount: 9301 Collinsville Rd, Collinsville, IL 62234

- i. SIHF Healthcare, 7210 West Main Street, Belleville, IL 62223
 - Hours: 11:30-3:30pm
 - Days of Operation: Monday-Friday
 - Requirements: Telephone screening required in advance or at time of collection. All patients accepted.
 - COVID Hotline: 618-646-2596
- ii. SIHF Healthcare, 2166 Madison Avenue, Granite City, IL 62040
 - Hours: 11:30-3:30pm
 - Days of Operation: Monday-Friday
 - Requirements: Telephone screening required in advance or at time of collection. All patients accepted.
 - COVID Hotline: 618-646-2597
- iii. SIHF Healthcare, East St. Louis, 100 North 8th Street, IL 62201
 - Hours: 12:00pm-4:00pm
 - Days of Operation: Monday-Friday
 - Requirements: Telephone screening required in advance or at time of collection. All patients accepted.
 - COVID Hotline: 618-646-2596

c. Arlington: 2200 Euclid Ave, Arlington Heights, IL 60005

- i. Epic Urgent and Family Care, 770 East Dundee Road, Palatine, IL 60074
 - Hours: 9:00am-5:00pm, 9:00am-2:00pm

- Days of Operation: Monday-Friday, Saturday
 - Requirements: Call to schedule appointment. Will provide electronic forms to complete followed by quick telemedicine visit with provider.
- ii. Lurie Children’s Northbrook Drive-Up Testing, 1131 Techny Road, Northbrook, IL 60062
- Hours: 8:00am-12:00pm
 - Days of Operation: Monday-Saturday
 - Requirements: Scheduled appointment required by the COVID Call Center
 - COVID Hotline: 312-227-5300
- iii. Physicians Immediate Care - Park Ridge, 123 S. Northwest Highway, Park Ridge, IL 60068
- Hours: 8:00AM - 4:30PM; 8:00AM - 2:00 PM
 - Days of Operation: Monday - Friday; Saturday – Sunday
 - Requirements: Curbside exam to determine if testing is appropriate; capacity may be limited
 - COVID Hotline: 312-767-0400

TRACK-SPECIFIC GUIDELINES & AFFIDAVIT

Before live racing can commence at any racetrack in Illinois, the track must establish its own track-specific “Track Guidelines.” The Track Guidelines must, at a minimum, include all the guidance contained in this document. In order to provide assurance that the Track Guidelines are fully implemented, a representative from the track must complete and sign the affidavit on the next page. By signing the affidavit, the track certifies that it will: implement and enforce its Track Guidelines; distribute the guidelines to relevant personnel and residents; and cease live racing if the Track Guidelines cannot be implemented for any reason. The signed affidavit and must be provided to the Illinois Department of Agriculture and the Illinois Racing Board prior to the commencement of live racing.

Affidavit

STATE OF ILLINOIS

COUNTY OF _____

The undersigned, _____, hereby certifies that I am the
_____ (title) of _____ (Racetrack) located in
_____ (city), Illinois. I FURTHER CERTIFY TO THE FOLLOWING:

- 1) The Racetrack has provided the Illinois Department of Agriculture and the Illinois Racing Board with its own Track Guidelines that will be implemented for live racing during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Track Guidelines include, at a minimum, the requirements set forth in the document entitled "Horse Racing in Illinois – COVID19."
- 2) The Track Guidelines will be provided to all workers at the Racetrack, including all individuals residing on the backstretch.
- 3) The Racetrack will take full responsibility to ensure that the Track Guidelines will be implemented and enforced at all times. If, at any time, the Racetrack is unable to implement the Track Guidelines, it will voluntarily cease live racing until the Track Guidelines can be fully met.
- 4) The Racetrack recognizes that if any governmental body, including state and local health departments, determines that the Track Guidelines are not being enforced or met, the Racetrack must suspend live racing until said governmental body indicates that live racing can commence.
- 5) The racetrack has a current contract in place with one of the following: Illinois Harness Horsemen's Association; Illinois Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association; or the Illinois Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association.
- 6) I am duly authorized to sign this affidavit. I know and understand the contents of this affidavit, and all statements herein are true and correct.

Signature of Affiant

Date

Subscribed and sworn before me this the _____ day of _____, 20_____.

Notary Public

(Seal)

My commission expires:
