



## **US Equestrian Federation**

### **COVID-19 Action Plan**

#### **Guidance for Operating USEF-Licensed Competitions in the COVID-19 Environment**

**New Edition: December 9, 2022**





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## A. Purpose & Scope

The US Equestrian Federation is dedicated to ensuring the safety and welfare of horses and all participants. While the country has essentially returned to normal operation and statistics indicate that approximately 80% of Americans have received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, the prevalence of the virus and its many variants still represents a health risk. While there is no way to eliminate all risks related to COVID, the following recommendations are provided to assist everyone in protecting themselves from COVID-19 and other communicable diseases (including influenza) and decrease the risk of infection and virus spread. These recommendations are intended to ensure that everyone at USEF competitions follows the most recent guidance from federal, state, and local public health officials. The recommendations are subject to modification as the guidance from government and public health officials changes and it is important to note that organizers may impose more restrictive actions than those of state and local authorities and the CDC.

For the latest information, please visit the [Centers for Disease Control \(CDC\)](#) web page. For additional tools and resources specific to competition organizers, please visit the [Competition Safety and Biosecurity](#) webpage.

**\*\*Attention FEI Competition Organizers: Click [here](#) to access the FEI Policy for Enhanced Competition Safety during the COVID-19 Pandemic, effective July 1, 2020, and updated February 18, 2022.**



## B. Key Contacts – for Competition Organizers & Participants

Subject	Contact	Email	Phone
Competitions <i>(including licensing, scheduling, modifications, date changes, etc.)</i>	Katlynn Wilbers	<a href="mailto:kwilbers@usef.org">kwilbers@usef.org</a>	(859) 225-6981
Compliance <i>(including any questions related to the protocols outlined in this document)</i>	Debbie Saliling	<a href="mailto:dsaliling@usef.org">dsaliling@usef.org</a>	(859) 225-6930
Licensed Officials	Alina Brazzil	<a href="mailto:abrazzil@usef.org">abrazzil@usef.org</a>	(859) 225-2044
Drugs & Medications	Stephen Schumacher	<a href="mailto:sschumacher@usef.org">sschumacher@usef.org</a>	(859) 225-2075

## Guidance for Competition Organizers

### C. General

**USEF-Licensed competitions must operate in accordance with state and local requirements for COVID-19, if in place. In the absence of state or local requirements, USEF recommends compliance with CDC guidelines. In an effort to mitigate the risk of spreading COVID-19, Competition Organizers may impose more restrictive requirements if they so choose.**

Additionally, competition organizers are encouraged to implement all recommendations for mitigating risks related to the COVID-19 virus.

It is recommended that USEF Competition Organizers work with local governments and public health authorities prior to the start of the competition to determine the current [Community Level](#) of COVID infection in the area in which the competition is occurring. Competition Organizers are encouraged to consult their insurers and legal counsel as well.

If competition organizers have any questions, please contact Katlynn Wilbers by email at [kwilbers@usef.org](mailto:kwilbers@usef.org) or by phone at (859) 225-6981.

### D. Agreements

- As is outlined in the USEF Competition License Agreement, ensure that all participants, licensed officials, and volunteers, provide emergency contact information and execute state-specific [Waiver and Release of Liability, Assumption of Risk and Indemnity Agreement](#) required by USEF, as a condition of participation. If a state-specific waiver is not available, please use the [general version](#) of the form.

### E. Access

- All persons entering competition grounds are recommended to self-monitor for COVID-19 symptoms daily prior to entering the competition grounds.
- Competition organizers may want to consider prohibiting access to the grounds, regardless of vaccination status for those individuals who:
  - Exhibit [COVID-19 symptoms](#), including a temperature of 100.4° F (38° C) or higher,
  - Have tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 5 days, or
  - Have tested positive outside of the past 5 days, but are still symptomatic.

For additional information, please refer to the CDC's [Isolation and Precautions](#) web page.

### F. Signage

- Competition Organizers are urged to post signage on their website, in their prize list, and throughout the competition grounds, regarding competition COVID protocols or recommendations.



### Guidance for Competitions Organizers – continued

- Additionally, Competition Organizers are strongly encouraged to post the following signage at all entrances to the competition grounds as well as throughout the competition grounds:
  - **USEF Poster:** [\*\*STOP! If you proceed past this entry point, you attest to the following\*\*](#)
  - **Sample poster:** [\*\*Symptoms of Coronavirus Disease\*\*](#)

### **G. Suggestions for Facilities, Staff, Service Providers & Volunteers**

- Service providers, staff, volunteers and others are recommended to comply with the following:
  - Register with the competition organizer, and;
  - Sign a [waiver](#) provided by the organizer.
- Cleaning/Sanitizing the environment
  - Provide hand sanitization stations with access to soap and water or alcohol-based hand sanitizer throughout the competition grounds.
  - Provide hand sanitizer to all officials, ring crew, office staff and maintenance staff.
  - Regularly sanitize surfaces touched by many: door handles, arena gates, wash racks and hoses, etc.
  - Ensure frequent cleaning and sanitizing of bathrooms, provide soap and water or alcohol-based hand sanitizer in bathrooms.
  - Provide multiple sanitation stations throughout the spectator seating/viewing areas if spectators are present.
- Competition Office
  - Encourage all competitors to complete entry forms, in their entirety, including having all requisite memberships in place, prior to entering the competition office.
  - Strongly encourage that all entries, adds, scratches, feed & bedding orders, billing/invoicing are done electronically.
  - Install clear plastic, glass or other type of protective shield/barrier in front of office staff.
  - Provide hand sanitizer near the door.
  - Provide an 'in' door and an 'out' door, if possible.
  - Prepare and email competitor bills as early as possible.
  - Establish appointment times for checkout at the competition office.

## Guidance for All Persons

### H. General

USEF-Licensed competitions must operate in accordance with state and local requirements for COVID-19, if in place. In the absence of state or local requirements, USEF recommends compliance with CDC guidelines. In an effort to mitigate the risk of spreading COVID-19, Competition Organizers may impose more restrictive requirements if they so choose.

### I. Access

- All persons entering competition grounds are recommended to self-monitor for COVID-19 symptoms daily prior to entering the competition grounds
- Individuals are strongly urged to avoid entering the competition grounds regardless of vaccination status, if they:
  - Exhibit [COVID-19 symptoms](#), including a temperature of 100.4° F (38° C) or higher,
  - Have tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 5 days, or
  - Have tested positive outside of the past 5 days, but are still symptomatic.

For additional information, please refer to the CDC's [Isolation and Precautions](#) web page.

### J. Additional Monitoring Guidelines for Individuals

- Strongly encourage all individuals to monitor for COVID-19 symptoms daily and report any symptoms immediately.
- If you suspect COVID-19 infection or exposure to a COVID-19 infected individual, request that the exposed/infected individual consult the [CDC website](#) and follow the recommended protocols, including getting tested.
- It is recommended that all individuals who choose to travel together in the same vehicle to a competition be up to date on their vaccinations and are free of COVID-19 symptoms prior to getting into the vehicle.

### K. Suggestions for Cleaning & Sanitizing

- Utilize hand sanitizer and encourage regular handwashing for all barn staff and other personnel.
- As it is a universal bio-security best practice regardless of the communicable disease type, **do not** mix equipment (tack, grooming supplies, water buckets, lead shanks, etc.) and **do** sanitize between each use.
- Regularly sanitize bikes/motorbikes/golf carts/car & truck door handles, stable doors, bucket handles, light switches, etc., and equipment including tack, grooming, feeding, stall cleaning materials, etc.