

Wheatland Farm Equestrian Center

A United States Equestrian Federation Center of Excellence



Operations During Covid-19

Living in a Covid-19 World!

The benefits of equestrian sport in a socially distancing world

- 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 COVID-19 infection. These requirements and recommendations are intended to ensure we are all following the most recent guidance from federal, state, and other public health officials. As that guidance continues to change, the content of this action plan will be modified to reflect those changes.
- The majority of our equestrian activities operate in an outdoor environment, in an open-air venue that encompasses 50 acres of open space. This environment makes it highly conducive to maintaining social distancing and ensuring application of other best practices focused on mitigating the risk of communicable disease transmission, including the COVID-19 virus. While some of our activities may operate in our indoor arena, even those are situated in ample open space that provides the same benefits as an outdoor lesson. With limited exception, equestrian sport involves no close, sustained contact (human-to-human) between participants and involves activity performed individually. Any equipment used by participants can easily be sanitized between each use, as is currently being done in our lessons

Being Here For You...

In whichever way works best for you

- Our current procedures of operation are designed to maintain social distancing and a sanitary environment, to allow our riders and families the opportunities to continue to enjoy outdoor exercise in as safe as environment as possible.
- We continue to provide lessons both virtually and in person, practicing the best standards of social distancing and hygiene that we possibly can.
- We would like to begin the transition back to “normal” along with the rest of the Commonwealth of Virginia, recognizing that mitigation continues to be an important part of life in a Covid-19 world.
- We depend on parents and students to help us keep everyone healthy, safe and well.

A Time Line Review

March & April 2020

- Wheatland Farm closed for an early spring break to review our policies and procedures for operating under the Governor of Virginia's Executive Orders 53 & 55.
- Consulting with our Board of Trustees, local law enforcement and lawyer, we developed our current policies and procedures.



Current Policies & Procedures

March 17 - May 15th

- All indoor spaces are CLOSED for operations including the Coffee Shop, the Indoor Arena Foyer & Indoor Arena Parent Lounge
- The Barns are closed to all but essential staff. No visitors are allowed to the farm.
- Volunteers have been temporarily dismissed and families are providing support instead for their students mounting, dismounting and as side walkers.
- Teaching staff observe 6ft minimum social distance and when any closer to the student, wear masks.
- Lesson operate outdoors except for mounting and dismounting when needed.
- Lessons are private only; groups may ONLY be for family members riding together.



Phase 1 - Return to Semi-Normal!

May 15th - May 30th (approx)

- Parents must continue keep students at home with any fever above 99 degrees Fahrenheit .
- Parents must keep students home from lessons for 14 days if any immediate family member is diagnosed with Covid-19, if they are exposed to anyone outside of the household with Covid-19, or if they travel outside of the Commonwealth of Virginia.
- Parents are **STRONGLY** encouraged to purchase a helmet for their students. (Please let me know if \$ help is needed)
- The indoor arena will again be utilized for small groups (three or fewer), though the outdoor will continue to be the arena of most common use. Clinics may resume practicing social distancing and according to our USEF guidelines.
- Group lessons can occur, with strict social distancing and instructors/staff/students using masks — students may dispense with masks while riding, for safety.
- Students will be asked to wear masks when off the horse, and bring their own helmets and gloves.
- The barns will remain open to **ONLY** essential staff. Students will not retain to he barn until June.
- Volunteers will not return until June. Families will be asked to provide support instead.
- Lessons will continue to be back billed through the end of May.
- Lesson schedule will be developed May 15-May 30th as “normal” - we will no longer be doing weekly surveys after May 15th.

Phase 2 - Almost There!!

June 1 - June 15 (following Commonwealth of Virginia)

- Social distancing and hygiene practices will be maintained.
- Barn will be re-opened to small groups of students practicing social distancing and while in a lesson.
- Swim lessons will (hopefully!!) resume.
- Lessons will need to be booked for the month.
- **One late cancellation will be allowed for the month without penalty.** Should a student be sick for an extended period following initial cancellation, we WILL allow withdrawal for the remainder of the month of June and allow credit for unused portion of lessons. This is for SICK STUDENTS only!

Phase 3 - Mid June

(Following the Commonwealth of Virginia)

Healing & Hope !

- Camp returns!
- Larger clinics return!
- Volunteers return!



Our Students Are the Heartbeat of Our Mission!



Further Resources:

As A USEF Center of Excellence, Wheatland Farm abides by the guidelines and recommendations set forth by our national governing body. USEF have provided the following helpful resources for us all:

[Equestrian Sport: Experience with Risk Management and Communicable Disease Outbreak Mitigation](#)

[USEF shows - how to operate, manage and participate](#)

[USEF COVID-19 Action Plan for USEF-Licensed Competitions](#)