

COVID-19 – Farm, Veterinary and Other Equine Activities - Updated: January 1, 2021

Version en espanol

To: Equine Industry Representatives and Veterinary Practitioners

From: E.S. Rusty Ford, Equine Operations Consultant – KY Office State Veterinarian

Further to the COVID-19 Guidance provided earlier this week I am providing this update to address Equine Boarding Facilities:

After receiving multiple inquiries, I sought clarification and have received from Governor Beshear's office that equine boarding facilities are defined to be agriculture and in caring for horses is an essential business. With this determination, equine boarding facilities are currently permitted to remain operational so long as the facility can implement and follow the direction given by Kentucky Office State Veterinarian that includes maintaining/practicing social distancing as well as limiting individuals in the facility at any given time to a minimum and to those that have a defined need/purpose/benefit. Additionally, all tools and equipment handled by individuals is to be adequately cleansed/disinfected and frequent hand washing must occur. Insuring compliance of the individual borders will be responsibility of the facility operator/manager. This should not be interpreted to imply concession riding operations or other such retail businesses are permitted to operate.

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The public health threat presented by COVID-19, otherwise known as coronavirus, is impacting all, and the equine industry is not immune to it. Commissioner of Agriculture Dr. Ryan Quarles, State Veterinarian Dr. Bob Stout and I are appreciative of the proactive steps our agricultural industries have taken thus far. Only by working together as we are can help insure our own health and that of our industry. Protecting the health of ourselves, families, friends, employees and one another is of paramount importance. As veterinarians, technicians, farm managers, and horsemen – we are

knowledgeable and familiar with biosecurity. We have all worked through disease outbreaks, quarantines, and understand the basic principles to mitigating disease transmission in horses. The environment we are in today though, does necessitate applying and expanding these principles. It is our mutual goal to see the standards defined below be adopted, implemented and practiced by all farms, practitioners and horsemen working together in our industry here in Kentucky.

The Kentucky Department of Agriculture's Office of State Veterinarian has developed the following guidance to adjust equine activities to better protect public health during this time.