

Veterinary-specific guidelines for FEI Events taking place during the Covid-19 pandemic

Purpose

This document provides guidance for the management of Veterinary-specific aspects of FEI Events during the Covid-19 pandemic. The measures outlined aim to apply to all Veterinary-specific aspects of the Event necessary to reduce the risk of Covid-19 transmission.

This document must be read and used in conjunction with:

- The FEI Policy for Enhanced Competition Safety during the Covid-19 Pandemic, (“FEI Covid-19 Policy”) and in particular article VII “Recommended Best Practice for FEI Event Organisers”, which provides general guidance for all FEI Events.
- The FEI Discipline Specific Guidelines which outline the measures applicable in each FEI discipline necessary to reduce the risk of Covid-19 transmission.

These guidelines are best practice recommendations. They do not intend to replace the regulations and policies imposed by the national and local health authorities, but to supplement them with considerations that are unique to the Veterinary roles at FEI Events.

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I. Examination on arrival

1. Access to passports

Use of hand sanitizer before and after handling each individual passport; Veterinary Delegates must have a black/red pen for individual use.

2. Handling of horses/Interaction with horse handlers

Wear PPE (masks). Wash hands before and after handling horses.

II. Treatment/Injuries/Fatalities

1. Use of treatment boxes

Wear PPE (masks) when horse handler or any other person is also present; use of hand sanitizer at the beginning and end of the procedures; carefully dispose of treating material and ensure cleaning of reusable material/equipment, that might be used by a different Treating Veterinarian, with an alcohol based solution. Cleaning of stable door handles/fittings used to open and close them.

2. Emergency protocols

Must include Covid-19 prevention measures for situations where it will not be possible to maintain social distancing or there is handling of material/equipment by different handlers. Detailed protocol must require for the minimum number of people to be involved in order to safely and effectively manage the emergency. Encourage Treating Veterinarians to bring own machines/equipment where possible to avoid sharing of equipment that is difficult to sanitize.

3. Erecting screens/Low-loading transporters/Horse ambulances

Wear PPE (masks) – these are stressful situations where it is not possible to ensure social distancing.

III. Horse Inspection

1. Handling of passports

Passports to be handled by only one person appointed by the Veterinary Delegate; use of hand sanitizer at the beginning and at the end of the procedure.

2. Interaction with horse handlers and other FEI Officials

Wear PPE (masks).

IV. Testing

1. Interaction with horse handlers and other FEI Officials

Wear PPE (mask).

2. Testing procedure

Use of hand sanitizer at the beginning and at the end of the procedure. Testing Veterinarians wear gloves for most of the procedure already, which will double up as an additional barrier.

3. Handling of passports

Use of hand sanitizer before and after handling each individual passport.

4. Administrative procedures

No more than 2 persons (Testing Veterinarian/Person Responsible or a member of their Support Personnel) at the same time when filling in the paperwork. When possible this should be done outside and keeping required social distancing. Wear PPE (mask). Ask Person Responsible/member of their Support Personnel to bring own pen to sign the paperwork, if this is not possible have an extra pen that is disinfected in between uses.

V. Examining Veterinarians (Limb sensitivity)

1. Interaction with horse handler/Person Responsible/FEI Officials

Wear PPE (mask). Use of hand sanitizer at the beginning and end of the procedures.

2. Use of equipment by different members of the team

Disinfection of the device and equipment, with an alcohol based solution, when it is to be used by a different member of the team or at the end of the procedure.

3. Administrative procedures

Only those indispensable should be present. Each Examining Veterinarian must carry his/her own pen. Wear PPE (mask). The handler/Person Responsible should be asked to bring own pen to sign paperwork, if this is not possible, have an extra pen that is disinfected in between uses.

VI. Paper Veterinary forms

1. Collection of paper Veterinary Forms

File the forms in a filer. Use hand sanitizer before and after handling each individual form.

2. Signing Veterinary Forms

Carry pen for individual use.

VII. Endurance

1. Vet gates – interaction with horse handlers
Wear PPE (mask).
2. Vet gates – personal equipment
Don't share personal equipment (e.g. Pens, stethoscopes)
3. Vet gates – shared equipment (e.g. heart rate monitor)
Disinfection of the device and equipment, with an alcohol based solution, when it is to be used by a different member of the team or at the end of the procedure.
4. Treating
Wear PPE (masks); use of hand sanitizer at the beginning and end of the procedures; carefully dispose of treating material and ensure cleaning of reusable material/equipment, that might be used by a different Treating Veterinarian, with an alcohol based solution.

VIII. Eventing

1. Cross country finishing
Wear PPE (mask).

IX. Driving

1. In-Harness Horse Inspection/In-Harness Examination/In-Harness Inspection before cones/Morning Re-Inspection
Wear PPE (mask). Don't share personal equipment (e.g. stethoscope, thermometer and pen).

X. Pony Measuring

(NB: any measures regarding Pony Measuring Sessions are to be complemented by the applicable local legislation and policies considering the number of people present at each Session)

1. Interaction with horse handler/Person Responsible/Stewards

Wear PPE (mask). Change mask when measuring ponies for more than 8 hours.

2. Handling measuring sticks

Each measuring Veterinarian is to use the same measuring stick during the entire session. Apply an alcohol based solution to the measuring stick at the beginning and at the end of the session.

3. Handling passports

Use of hand sanitizer before and after handling each individual passport; Measuring Veterinarians must have a black/red pen for individual use.

4. Use of HorseApp

Each Measuring Veterinarian should only handle own smartphone when using the HorseApp. If using the FEI's phone, this must be disinfected with an alcohol based solution when switching users and at the end of the session.

5. Use of microchip reader

The microchip reader should be handled by only one Measuring Veterinarian. It must be disinfected with an alcohol based solution when switching operator or at the end of the session.

In addition to the specific guidelines for the Measuring Veterinarians, the OCs should take the following measures into consideration when holding a Pony Measuring Session:

- Physical distancing, as per the FEI Covid-19 Policy, to be observed in every aspect and every area.
- Number of people on site to be limited to only the necessary people.
- Use of masks by everyone present.
- Regular hand washing/sanitisation and several sanitation spots available on the venue.
- Adequate cleaning schedule for the facilities.
- Avoid sharing of equipment; if sharing is necessary sanitise equipment after use and sanitise hands before and after use.
- If the pony measurement session is taking place at an Event, the OC's Covid-19 plan should cover the pony measurement session as well.