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COVID-19 FAQ for Eventing Competitions

This FAQ is provided to assist the U.S. eventing community in ensuring the health, safety, and welfare of participants and their horses at competitions. *New questions and answers will be added to the bottom of the document.*

[Watch On Demand: USEF/USEA Joint Webinar: A Safe Return to Competition](#)

USEF Resources & Links:

[COVID-19 Action Plan for USEF-Licensed Competitions](#) – *updated weekly*

[State-by-State Tracker](#) – *updated weekly*

[Licensed Competitions COVID-19 Toolkit](#)

[Common FAQ's: COVID-19 Action Plan](#)

[Competition Organizer FAQ's: COVID-19 Action Plan](#)

[Licensed Officials FAQ's: COVID-19 Action Plan](#)

[FEI Policy for Enhanced Competition Safety during the Covid-19 Pandemic](#)

More links and resources are available on the [Eventing News & Updates](#) page. If you have additional questions pertaining to eventing that are not answered in this document, please contact Jenni Autry at the USEF Eventing Department at jautry@usef.org.

Q. When am I required to follow the social distancing requirements outlined in the [COVID-19 Action Plan](#)?

A. All individuals must practice social distancing (or physical distancing) at all times while on the competition grounds by staying at least 6 feet (about 2 arms' length) from any person who is not a member of their immediate household. Members of the same household are still required to wear masks or face coverings at all times while on competition grounds.

Q. When am I required to wear a face mask/face covering?

A. Face masks/face coverings are required at all times on the competition grounds unless mounted on a horse.





Q. How can areas of the venue (doors, handles, etc.) be kept sanitized during competition?

A. Competition organizers are responsible for having sanitation stations throughout the grounds with either soap and water, hand sanitizer, or both. Participants are required to wash hands often and adhere to other sanitization practices throughout the day. All participants are encouraged to bring their own supplies as well.

Q. Will consequences for individuals not complying with the new protocols be enforced? Who is responsible for enforcing?

A. If social distancing and/or mandatory requirements are not followed at a competition, it must be reported to the Organizer and/or Steward/Technical Delegate at the competition. These matters should be handled immediately at the competition if possible. USEF Stewards and Technical Delegates will inform individuals when they are in violation of the mandatory requirements. Organizers will be responsible for facilitating the removal of an individual if they do not cooperate with the request. The Steward or Technical Delegate must report instances of non-compliance to the USEF in their USEF Steward/TD Report.

Q. Who is responsible for providing PPE (face masks, gloves, etc.) at competitions?

A. Competition organizers are responsible for providing PPE to their competition staff, volunteers, and officials. Participants are responsible for their own PPE and that of their support teams. Organizers are not required to provide face masks/coverings to competitors, though it is recommended to have extra face masks/coverings on hand for those who arrive without one, as they are required to be worn if there is a possibility of being within 6 feet of another individual. They are not required when mounted on a horse.

Q. How will social distancing be maintained in stabling?

A. Stabling flow and assignment charts are dependent on each individual organizer and venue. Organizers must configure stabling to comply with social distancing requirements. Competition organizers are encouraged to plan and publish their stabling requirements prior to the start of competition for exhibitors and staff to review. Organizers must limit the congregation of groups in the stabling area. The FEI outlines recommendations for stabling in the [FEI Policy for Enhanced Competition Safety during the Covid-19 Pandemic](#).

Q. Which protocols are mandatory and which are recommended?

A. The [COVID-19 Action Plan](#) defines what is mandatory vs. recommended. The USEF strongly recommends that all participants read the full Action Plan. Refer to the [Common FAQ's: COVID-19 Action Plan](#) and [Competition Organizer FAQ's: COVID-19 Action Plan](#) for more information.

Q. How long will these requirements be in place?

A. These guidelines will be in place for the foreseeable future. The [COVID-19 Action Plan](#) is updated weekly and will be adjusted accordingly if needed.





Q. Is it possible that competitions will be suspended again?

A. USEF will continue to monitor the environment and may impose a suspension again if the circumstances warrant it.

Q. If competitors cross state lines to compete in another state, how do the various state rules on quarantining for two weeks apply?

A. Competitors must follow the state guidelines regarding state-to-state travel, as those guidelines apply to anyone in that state. Federal, state and local regulations will supersede USEF or organizer requirements except when USEF or organizer requirements are more restrictive.

Q. How will a competition handle instances where judges or judges and scribes are required to sit together?

A. Social distancing is a requirement. In the event that it is absolutely impossible to maintain social distancing of six (6) feet or more, the erection of a solid divider located in front of, and between individuals, and of sufficient size to reduce the risk of respiratory particulates being spread, must be used. The inclusion of such dividers does not eliminate the requirement to wear face masks or face coverings.

Q. How will tack inspections be handled with social distancing?

A. The USEF Eventing Rules (EV 115) do not require actual contact with the horse during tack and equipment inspections. Tack inspections should be performed visually in order to maintain social distancing.

Q. How will competition management handle distributing competition-assigned numbers and physical documents/paperwork?

A. Competition management should encourage competitors to use their own bridle numbers. Numbers can be emailed ahead of time so competitors can provide themselves with clear/visible numbers. When possible, electronic options should be used in place of physical/paper documents. Every effort should be made to have paperwork completed electronically ahead of time by management and participants. For example, dressage tests should be sent to competitors via email rather than distributed in the office.

Q. Are organizers required/recommended to limit the number of competitors at an event?

A. Decisions should be based on local and state requirements and specifics around each individual competition. Competition organizers must report any limitation on entries to the USEF and provide notice of such limitation on the competition website or in the prize list, as well as at the competition office and at each competition area. Limiting entries must be done on a first come, first served basis regardless of the scope of the limitation.



Q. Will competitions be required to have a COVID-19 safety officer?

A. The USEF recommends that competitions appoint a COVID-19 safety officer to help ensure protocols and guidelines are being followed by all individuals on-site.

Q. How can competitions keep the volunteers safe?

A. The [COVID-19 Action Plan](#) requires volunteers to practice social distancing protocols and wear a face mask/face covering. It is recommended that competitions provide volunteers with hand sanitizer. Competitions can host volunteer briefings outside in a larger area where social distancing can be observed or hold briefings the night before on Zoom. Competitions can also provide pre-packaged food/water bottles for volunteers.

Q. Will a template COVID-19 release form be provided for organizers to use? What resources will be provided to help organizers transition to a paperless entry process?

A. The USEA has a form that is being released in coordination with the USEF. It is incorporated into a new liability waiver that all people in attendance at the competition must sign. The USEA has a paperless entry process through Xentry. Competitors can also complete a paperless entry on EventEntries.com.

Q. Is the Technical Delegate required to submit additional paperwork?

A. USEF is adding four additional questions to the TD report, but there will not be additional forms required for submission by the TD.

Q. Are the protocols in the [COVID-19 Action Plan](#) required for a schooling show or unrecognized derby?

A. An unrecognized competition or educational event isn't required to follow the COVID-19 Action Plan, but the USEF strongly recommends that educational activities and schooling shows use the Action Plan as a resource and follow all WHO, CDC, state, and local guidelines.

Q. Are vendors and trade fairs allowed?

A. Vendors and trade fairs will need to follow the restrictions and guidance that applies to service providers within the [COVID-19 Action Plan](#). It will ultimately be the Organizer's decision as to whether or not vendors will be allowed at their competition based on their state or local guidelines and instructions.

Q. How will organizers ensure social distancing in key areas at the venue like the warm-up?

A. Organizers will need to limit the number of athletes in warm-up at a single time and have disinfectant material available for trainers and coaches to sanitize jump cups and rails after use. Organizers will need to manage crowd gatherings at the in-gate and enforce social distancing.



Q. Can my owners, family, and friends still attend competitions?

A. Owners and family members can attend competitions, but spectators and non-essential personnel are not permitted. [The COVID-19 Action Plan](#) discourages multiple family members from accompanying owners and athletes at competitions

Q. What is the status of USEF Eventing Programs?

A. The USEF Eventing Department remains committed to our High Performance Programs (i.e. Elite/Pre-Elite/Development/Emerging) during the COVID-19 pandemic. We are evaluating the possibility of rescheduling previously scheduled clinics and program events. Visit the [USEF Eventing News & Updates](#) page for the latest information.

Q. Are athletes required to wear face masks/face coverings while jogging their horse for horse inspections?

A. Yes, athletes are required to wear face masks/face coverings at all times when on the competition grounds unless mounted on a horse.