



Guidance for British Dressage Organisers and Venues

COVID-19: returning to restricted activity safely

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Guidelines for a safe return to restricted activity

These guidelines currently apply to organisers/venue owners and members residing in England and have been produced in line with Government guidance on public areas, outdoor activities and exercise published on 11 May 2020, which are available on the [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk) website.

These procedures are correct at the time of printing; however, they need to be reviewed regularly in accordance with the latest advice provided by government. Operating procedures are based on Public Health England (PHE) guidance, please note that other guidance may apply in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. You should refer to the relevant websites for the devolved governments for guidance relating to any other country other than England.

Introduction

Following the UK government's easing of lockdown restrictions in England, British Dressage has developed a set of practical guidelines to follow so riding and training can resume safely, in accordance with government regulations. These guidelines outline adaptations so that riding and training activity can be enjoyed in a way that is in line with government advice and helps to prevent the spread of COVID-19. They include measures to limit unnecessary contact and interactions with others, as well as minimising the risks associated with COVID-19. Members should adhere to the Government's social distancing guidelines, staying at least two metres away from others at all times, and follow public health advice for hygiene.

Venue management

- Ensure the venue proprietor and staff oversee and maintain the implementation of current measures. Venues are advised to take time to ensure they reopen safely.
- All activity should be consistent with the most recent government guidance regarding health, travel, social distancing and hygiene at all times.
- Venues must consider safety first, particularly minimising the risk of infection / transmission.
- A thorough risk assessment should be undertaken and appropriate measures put in place to ensure members, staff, officials and volunteers are protected. There is a template to assist with this process in the [Organisers and Venues Toolkit](#).
- We advise that you keep a contact sheet so you can track and trace any individuals you have had interaction with, should someone contract the virus. You can find a template in the [Organisers and Venues Toolkit](#).
- Guidelines will be updated in accordance with any further updates from the government.
- Venues will need to be flexible to react to any future changes set out by the government if tighter social distancing / movement is reintroduced or restrictions are further relaxed.

Venue facilities

- Social distancing measures must be in place to restrict the numbers in facilities at any one time.
- Toilet and hand washing facilities must remain open, with clear signage in place to restrict numbers entering at any one time.
- Water and soap should always be available. Hand sanitisers or disinfectant wipes must be provided if hot water and soap is not available.
- The secretary's office, club house / pavilion buildings must remain closed to the public unless specific access is needed (e.g. through-ways for toilet access).
- Arena hire times must be staggered to avoid people leaving / arriving at the same time.
- All social spaces – galleries, seating areas or verandas must remain closed.
- Cafes and restaurant facilities should remain closed, other than for take-aways only.
- All food and drink must be consumed off the premises; i.e. in outdoor spaces only.
- Throw away cups, plates and cutlery are essential, with bins accessible to allow safe disposal of items.
- Cleaning, particularly common touchpoints like door handles, gates, switches, hand rails, etc. should take place regularly, including the removal of rubbish.
- Adequate parking should be provided for cars, horseboxes and trailers to allow for social distancing to be observed, including additional space for the loading/unloading of horses.
- Anyone visiting the venue should minimise unnecessary contact with other individuals, including considering access for other vehicles that may arrive / depart during the day.

Health, safety and hygiene

- Provide adequate PPE for all venue staff, officials and volunteers, where required.
- Ensure a fully qualified first aider is on site. Clear signage, including the name and contact number of the nominated individual should be provided.
- Where first aid is required, it would be preferable that a present guardian or member of the rider's household administer this, under guidance from the suitably qualified professional, to allow social distancing to be maintained.
- Guidance on delivering first aid during the coronavirus pandemic is available on the [St John Ambulance website](#).

Spectators

- Spectators are not permitted on site.
- Only members of a single household, or one additional person from outside a household is allowed to attend with the rider. Venues should restrict this to one additional person per rider.
- Where an additional person is required for safeguarding purposes (e.g. parent / guardian of U18) that person must observe all social distancing requirements.
- Additional provision should also be allowed for Para riders, who may require additional assistance from a guardian or carer.

Bookings and payment

- All bookings should be taken online or by phone.
- Payments should be taken online electronically, such as using BACS, PayPal or by pre-paid bank transfer. Handling of cash should be avoided to minimise risk of contamination.

Communication

- Venues should maintain communication with members, making them aware of any changes to government guidance.
- Signage must be clearly displayed around the venue, highlighting social distancing guidelines and promoting awareness of hygiene measures.
- Posters will be available from British Dressage to assist venues with signposting these key messages.

Useful web links

- [Government guidance for the public on the phased return for sport and recreation](#)
- [Government guidance for providers of outdoor facilities on the phased return of sport and recreation](#)
- [Sport & Recreation Alliance Outdoor facilities guidance](#)
- [Government general coronavirus advice](#)
- [Government guidance on social distancing](#)
- [Government FAQs: what you can and can't do](#)
- [HSE - Managing risks and risk assessment guidance](#)