

Coronavirus (COVID-19) – Member Q&A

Update: 08.01.21



General guidance

As of 8 January 2021, the overarching guidance for each of the home nations is as follows:



England

England is under 'stay at home' orders by law and we've suspended all BD training and competition activity across the country. We'll continue to review the situation regularly in line with government announcements.

In order to reduce the risk of spreading the virus, everyone should minimise the time spent outside of home, only leaving for essential reasons such as work (if it cannot be done from home), exercise, education, healthcare or shopping for food and other necessary items.

You can exercise outdoors with the people you live with, with those from your support or childcare bubble, or (when on your own) with one person from another household.

You may still leave your house to visit and provide care for your horse, which includes where they are kept in livery or reside elsewhere, with the permission of the owner of the premises, providing all social distancing and hygiene measures are followed. You can also continue to ride your horse in order to maintain their health and welfare, as part of your own daily exercise. Horses should not travel other than for welfare or veterinary reasons.



Scotland

All of mainland Scotland is in level four and under a legally enforceable 'stay at home' order, where you can only leave home for essential purposes. Essential reasons to leave home include work, healthcare, education, shopping for food and essentials and outdoor recreation, sport and exercise.

We have suspended all BD training and competition activity across the country. We'll continue to review the situation regularly in line with government announcements.

You may still leave your house to visit and provide care for your horse, which includes where they are kept in livery or reside elsewhere, with the permission of the owner of the premises, providing all social distancing and hygiene measures are followed.

A maximum of two people from two separate households can meet outdoors for exercise. Children under 12 do not count towards this total.

You can also continue to ride your horse in order to maintain their health and welfare, as part of your own exercise. In Scotland, equestrian venues and riding centres can remain open and you are permitted to travel your horse within your Local Authority area for training and exercising, including arena/facility hire. All activity must follow permitted numbers and hygiene measures.



Wales

All of Wales is under alert level four with restrictions in place and a 'stay at home' order. People should not mix with other households or meet people they don't live with. Many businesses, including equestrian venues and riding centres, must stay closed and you should only leave the house for essential purposes like work (if it cannot be done from home), exercise, education, healthcare or shopping for food and other necessary items.

You may travel to attend to a horse's welfare requirements including exercise. Exercising your horse should 'start and finish at home' and be done only with members of your household or solo. All facilities are closed but if it is essential for your horse's welfare, you may travel it to a private facility for exercise, but you may not meet with anyone outside your household or support bubble.

Regional Activity

Can training and camps in the regions continue?

All our 'live' in person regional training, camps and activity has been suspended while lockdown restrictions remain in place. However, the team of Development Officers are running online activities and training, please visit your [regional web pages](#) for any details. Online activity is often open to all BD members, not just those in the region.

National competition and events

What competition restrictions are in place currently?

Across the three home nations, all competition has been cancelled until the end of January. The next review dates are 28 January for Wales, 31 January for Scotland and 15 February for England. Further updates are expected from the respective governments on these dates as to whether the current level of restrictions will have to remain in place or can be relaxed.

Can I compete in online competitions?

If you have access to private facilities, you may continue to take part in online competitions. Remote or virtual competition activity using BD tests is permitted for authorised online providers only. There are currently four authorised online providers: [Dressage Anywhere](#), [E-Riders](#), [The Mane Show](#) and [Dressage Online](#). Prior approval must be obtained by all online providers in order to be granted permission to use BD tests.

What is happening with Winter Area Festivals and Regionals?

The BD team is currently working on contingency plans in order to provide viable opportunities for members and ensure that qualifications are not lost. There are a number of options under consideration and further details will follow in due course. With a busy calendar, it's a complex task as there are a number of interdependencies but we are working on different scenarios and will confirm alternative plans once they have been finalised.

Will the Winter Championships run?

At this stage, the Winter Championships remain in the calendar for April. We are currently exploring various different scenarios, which will depend on whether the Area Festivals and Regionals can be rescheduled and how qualification is impacted. Further details will be released after the next official review date on 15 February, when the government will announce whether the current restrictions have to be extended or can be relaxed. We should by then have a clearer indication on timescales for the resumption of activity.

Membership and horse registrations

What are the benefits of having a membership when I can't compete?

We really do appreciate your continued support of British Dressage, as it helps to safeguard and protect the sport we all love. Not only does your membership help to keep our organisation going during this prolonged suspension period, it will ensure we all have a healthy sport to return to when activity is able to resume.

Throughout the last nine months we have been continuing to work on a number of important projects, including our IT platforms, new judge education system, youth development pathways and online content for youth and coach education, to ensure that the sport of dressage remains in great shape despite the crisis. And even though you might not be able to compete, there are still plenty of other benefits you can continue to enjoy.

Most importantly, as a member you have public liability insurance that covers you and all horses you own, as well as personal accident cover for a variety of equestrian pursuits from Shearwater Insurance. The insurance cover alone is worth £80-£100, so it's a great benefit to have. If you have questions on the cover you automatically receive as a member, contact the team at Shearwater on 01992 707316. See the insurance section below for further details.

There's also the free legal helpline available to members via Harrison Clark Rickerbys, which continues to be extremely beneficial during these times of uncertainty. Members are entitled to 30 minutes of free advice on any matter and there are special fixed fee packages and discounts for BD members with HCR.

The BD magazine is still published every six weeks, with invaluable training content and tips, while we've been adding extra editorial features during the shutdown period. We have also created more on-line content to keep everyone informed and entertained while the sport is suspended and members are unable to compete.

We launched our 'BD At Home' online hub during the second lockdown in November and continue to add more content each week, so there is something for everyone to help prepare for the season ahead. Whether it's perfecting movements at home, learning new skills, broadening your horizons or just catching up with some of the sport's big names, there's plenty to discover on the BD website.

Vitality, continued membership also ensures that any qualifications you've gained to date are maintained and remain valid. Once the sport is able to resume fully across all home nations, these qualifications will still count towards any rescheduled competitions that are able to take place.

Can membership and/or horse registrations be suspended or extended?

Supporting BD costs a Full member 25p per day, a Premier Club member 16p per day and Club member just 10p per day – and we have frozen membership prices for a third successive year to say 'thank you' for your loyalty and support. All members will also have benefited from the horse registration extensions that applied in July and December, by three months in total for members in England and four months for Scotland and Wales, in recognition for the disruption that the pandemic has caused.

Our first priority has to be to safeguard the sport of dressage and ensure that the organisation remains viable beyond the pandemic. Nevertheless, we will endeavour to ensure that membership continues to provide value for money for our loyal members and will again consider further extensions to horse registrations once the financial impact of the current suspension period is known.

Thanks to prudent planning and cost management we mitigated the reduced income last year to minimise the impact on our bottom line, but we still posted a six figure loss at the end of 2020. Even with a healthy reserves position there is no room for complacency and we still rely on income through membership and horse registrations to protect the future stability of British Dressage. As such, we are very grateful for your ongoing loyalty and contributions.

Member insurance

What insurance do I get with my membership?

Full (including Life, Trial and Winter memberships), Premier Club and Club members receive two forms of cover from our insurance providers Shearwater. Public Personal Liability, up to £30 million in any one occurrence, as well as Personal Accident Insurance, which covers accidental death, loss of limb or sight and permanent disablement as a consequence of any horse related accident.

What's covered under the Public Personal Liability insurance?

The member, any horses owned by the member when ridden with the member's permission, and a groom engaged in working for the insured member, are all covered for payment of sums awarded under civil law due to accidental death or injury to third parties or damage to third party property. Some exclusions apply, please see the 2021 Members' Handbook, page 234.

As always, the advice from Shearwater to riders, and clients, is to ensure that they are operating within the current Government guidance and are acting lawfully at all times. They would therefore strongly recommend members check with venues whether they have been given written permission to open facilities before attending.

As long as members are following government guidelines and not carrying out illegal acts then insurance cover remains in force as per normal terms/conditions of policy. If anyone is perceived to be breaching lockdown rules/legislation then this could be interpreted as carrying out an illegal act.

Am I only covered for BD activities?

No, both insurances cover a member while engaged in any horse related activity while your membership is valid. There are a few specific provisions in each of the insurance policies, but essentially you're covered for most equine activities – even when not competing or training.

Am I still covered to ride in lockdown?

It remains your decision whether or not to ride, where it is deemed safe and appropriate to do so within government guidelines. The Personal Public Liability and Personal Accident cover that Shearwater provides to British Dressage members offers cover for the duration of your membership.

Unless the government specifically states that riding is not permitted your insurance cover will continue as normal. Riding advice varies between England, Scotland and Wales, so please check with their respective government websites on permitted exercise, especially in the event of any local lockdowns.

Do I get this cover under my other insurances – like horse or home?

Possibly, but you'd need to check carefully with the terms and conditions applied by your insurance providers. It is unlikely that the same provisions would be available under general home insurance. The insurance cover you receive as a member have been developed in line with member needs by experienced insurance professionals to provide specialist cover.

Vaccinations

What is BD doing about the six month booster requirement?

With horses not travelling or mixing during lockdown the risk of contracting equine influenza is currently low but the virus is still in circulation and cases of EI have recently been reported. Even when not competing it is vitally important that all members maintain the 12 month vaccination requirement to ensure your horse is protected.

Please note, our vaccination rule states that all horses competing with BD must have had an EI vaccination within six months and 21 days of the competition they wish to attend, it does not require a 'six monthly booster'.

When training and competition activity is able to resume, BD will consider if it is possible to instigate another amnesty period on the six month requirement to enable members to get up to date with their vaccinations. This applied in July 2020 due to the low incidence of EI during the summer months.

However, please note that this decision will be based on expert veterinary advice at the appropriate time and we still encourage members to ensure that they have vaccinated within six months of competition to provide adequate protection when competing during the rest of 2021. Please refer to the criteria in rule 11 of the members' handbook.

What if my horse goes over the 12 month requirement?

You will need to restart your vaccination process from the beginning, as per rule 11 in the 2021 Members' Handbook, before you are able to compete. The initial course of two injections, not less than 21 days and no more than 92 days apart, must be completed again before competing. Please allow seven days before arriving at the competition from your last injection.

What if I was in the process of completing the initial course of three injections and I've missed one?

Vets are advised to complete these injections where possible to give a horse some immunity, but if you were unable to get them completed you'll need to start the process again, in line with BD rule 11.

Which date is my 12 month booster due?

Once you've completed the initial course, each time you have a booster vaccination the 12 month period starts over again, including six month boosters. So whatever the last vaccination date shows in your horse's passport, the next injection will be due within 12 months. Please note that 12 months refers to calendar months as per usual, rather than 365 days.

What happens if my horse isn't competing – can he go over one year without having to re-start?

No, if your horse goes over a year without a vaccination then it would need to restart a programme from the beginning, whether it's currently competing or not.

If my horse has exceeded the six month booster requirement, do I need to start again?

No. Rule 11 states that horses must have had a booster injection within six calendar months +21 days of a competition. While there are no competitions this rule does not apply, but the 12 month requirement remains in place regardless.

It's not my fault my horse can't be vaccinated – why should I have to pay to re-start the vaccinations?

It's an unfortunate situation, but if the vaccination exceeds 12 months your horse will not have the necessary levels of immunity to Equine Influenza. In order to compete with us, your horse must be compliant with BD rules, which are in place to protect the horse population in the UK. This is based on independent expert veterinary advice.

It is important to emphasise that while horses are not currently mixing or in competition, a 12 month vaccination is still necessary in order to protect against EI. Beyond this point the efficacy of the vaccine is no longer guaranteed. Therefore, this requirement must remain in place to prevent a resurgence in the number of cases again.

British Dressage

Will BD continue to operate during the lockdown?

Our offices in Meriden are currently closed but our IT systems and telephone network enable our staff to work efficiently from home, so you can contact us by phone or email in the usual way. During the suspension period we will once again take advantage of the government's Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme with reduced staffing arrangements and a number of the team working on a part time basis.

Our online shop remains closed currently. We have arrangements in place to supply our authorised online dressage providers with scoresheets for their competitions but will not be processing any further orders at this time.

We will do our utmost to continue providing a high level of customer service throughout lockdown, but thank you for your patience and understanding if it takes slightly longer than normal to respond to any emails or messages.

Coaches

Can I coach face to face?



England

Under the legislation in England, you may travel for work if you can't do so from home. We would advise that you read the government guidance and make a decision if carrying out in person instruction is appropriate at this time, based on your own individual circumstances.

If you do continue to train, please note that this must be on a one to one basis only, following all COVID protocols and ensuring that social distancing and hygiene measures are adhered to at all times. You will need to update your risk assessments in order to create a safe workplace and we strongly recommend that you also check with your insurance provider to ensure that you have adequate cover. You should only travel to meet your clients on private facilities, they should not be travelling horses to your yard, or a venue, as this would not be deemed essential travel. Horses should be moved for welfare or veterinary reasons only.

Please consider conducting your coaching online, where possible and insurance permitting, to reduce direct contact with others and limit the amount of travel.



Scotland

In Scotland, coaches may continue to operate within the travel restrictions and should not deliver a session to more than one person aged 12 or over at a time. Sessions should only be delivered within an individual's Local Authority area. Group activity for under 12s may continue, with a maximum of two coaches present in any one session. There is no limit to the number of sessions per day, provided appropriate measures are taken between sessions.

Before coaching, appropriate risk assessments should be carried out and coaches should also collect Test & Protect information from participants. All other Covid protocols, including social distancing and hygiene measures, must be followed at all times.



Wales

Based on the fact that households are not permitted to mix in Wales, face-to-face coaching is unfortunately not possible at this time. Coaching options should be moved online with the correct insurance provisions in place.

How will my BDCC course be affected?

We have reformatted the delivery programme for BDCC courses, which enable us to deliver the theory sections via WebEx. The feedback from the Web Ex sessions has been excellent, with candidates continuing to progress through their portfolio work, supported by their Coach Educator via email. The remaining practical sessions and assessment days will be delivered in small groups and observing Covid secure protocols when the restrictions are sufficiently eased to enable this to take place.

How will I keep up with my CPD to keep my status?

It is vitally important that standard compliance (first aid, safeguarding, DBS) is maintained and all coaches / trainers must ensure that they have adequate insurance cover prior to arranging or partaking in any form of online or face-to-face training. Where some elements of compliance have expired in 2020 due to course cancellations, to remain BD accredited, coaches must now ensure that their safeguarding is refreshed by 31 December 2020 and First Aid by the 30 April 2021. However, coaches are urged to speak to their insurance provider as guidance may vary.

There are options to continue with some training online, including safeguarding and Youth Assessor Coach training, which is now available on Zoom. Further details can be found here: <https://www.britishdressage.co.uk/get-involved/education-and-courses/courses/>

Any coach who needs to renew their safeguarding certificate will be able to do so online. Please contact officials@britishdressage.co.uk for further information.

What will happen if training courses / refresher days get postponed and take me over the stated deadlines to remain eligible?

In order to support all of coaches through this difficult time, we will extend the deadline for maintaining your first aid requirements until 30 April 2021. Safeguarding requirements can be completed at any time online, please contact officials@britishdressage.co.uk for further information.

It would be advisable to check with all course providers to determine whether they can still provide you a refresher course, if your current certificate has expired, or if you need to commence another initial course. It is strongly

recommended that you check with your insurance provider to ensure you are still meeting any requirements they may have regarding CPD training compliance.

Judges

Are there any judge training opportunities available online to help me to meet my CPD requirements?

Following the cancellation of the regional seminars and the Principles of Judging seminar, as an alternative, judges must participate in two zoom sessions at their appropriate level to remain listed. Judges should have completed the updated CPD requirement by the end of March 2021.

The training is not just limited to those wishing to meet CPD requirements, there are a range of sessions across the levels covering various movement specific topics as well as full test judging and analysis. The sessions have been very well received and are delivered by a range of tutor judges from across the country, all accessible from your own home. [Zoom sessions can be booked via the judge training calendar.](#)

Organisers

What financial assistance is available to support my venue and business?

Following the latest announcements by the Chancellor, businesses that are financially impacted by the lockdown restrictions are advised to check the government's website for details of the range of assistance available.

On Tuesday the government announced that additional one-off cash grants of up to £9,000 will be made for businesses in England that operate in the retail, hospitality and leisure industry, which includes equestrian centres and venues. The amount received will be linked to business rates, and provided on a per-property basis:

- £4,000 for businesses with a rateable value of £15,000 or less
- £6,000 for businesses with a rateable value of between £15,000 and £51,000
- £9,000 for businesses with a rateable value of more than £51,000

In addition, a £594 million discretionary fund has been made available to local authorities and the devolved administrations of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland to support other businesses that are affected by the restrictions, but not eligible for these grants. Businesses should apply directly to their local authority for support.

The government has already provided:

- 100% business rates relief for retail, hospitality and leisure businesses
- £1.1 billion of existing discretionary funding for Local Authorities
- An extension to the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme, which will now run until April
- An extension to 100% government-backed loans, which have been extended until March

For those who are self-employed, the Self Employment Income Support Scheme was previously extended to offer a third grant for those eligible, covering the period from 1 November 2020 to 29 January 2021. This offers a taxable grant worth 80% of your average monthly trading profits, paid as a three-month lump sum to the maximum value of £7,500. However, this is only available to those who were eligible for the first and second SEISS grants.

Full information on the financial support available for businesses is included on the government's website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/financial-support-for-businesses-during-coronavirus-covid-19>

Useful links:

England

GOV.UK – [National lockdown: Stay at home guidance](#)

Sport England – [What the new national lockdown means for sport and physical activity in England](#)

Scotland

GOV.SCOT – [Alert Level 4: Stay at home guidance](#)

sportscotland – [What the restrictions mean for sport in Scotland](#)

horsescotland – [COVID guidance including level 4 appendix](#)

Wales

GOV.WALES – [Alert Level 4: Stay at home guidance](#)

Sport Wales – [Taking part in sport and exercise in Wales](#)