

GUIDANCE FOR HORSE RACING PARKS AND MOTOR RACEWAYS

Overview

Under current Chief Medical Officer of Health Orders, businesses and entities are required to:

- implement practices to minimize the risk of transmission of infection among attendees;
- provide procedures for rapid response if an attendee develops symptoms of illness;
- ensure that attendees maintain high levels of sanitation and personal hygiene;
- comply, to the extent possible, with the [COVID-19 General Relaunch Guidance](#), this guidance, and any other applicable Alberta Health guidance found at: <https://www.alberta.ca/biz-connect.aspx>.

This document has been developed to support horse racing park and motor raceway operators in reducing the risk of transmission of COVID-19 among attendees (including workers, volunteers, patrons and the general public). The guidance provided outlines public health and infection prevention and control measures, specific to these settings. For other non-racing entertainment in a Racing Entertainment Centre, see [Guidance for Casinos and Racing Entertainment Centres](#).

This document and the guidance within it is subject to change and will be updated as needed. Current information related to COVID-19 can be found: <https://www.alberta.ca/covid-19-information.aspx>

COVID-19 Risk Mitigation

General	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Place signage around all entries and throughout the facility outlining:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ physical distancing (floor decals can be used to mark distancing)○ prohibitions on attendance by sick or isolating persons○ hand hygiene expectations○ coughing and sneezing etiquette○ cleaning and disinfecting practices, and numbers to call to report sanitation and distancing concerns (i.e. guest services).• Hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol should be available at facility entrances and exits and throughout the facility.• For restaurant and bar services, see the Guidance for Restaurants, Cafes, Pubs and Bars. Spectators may take their food to consume in the stands.• Participants and spectators may be encouraged to wear non-medical masks.• Advise patrons that they cannot visit if they are experiencing symptoms including cough, fever, shortness of breath, runny nose or sore throat that are not related to a pre-existing illness or health condition, or are otherwise required to isolate or quarantine.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide adequate and conveniently located garbage receptacles and advise spectators to put all garbage in the receptacles to reduce risk to staff.• Use contactless payment and avoid cash payments where possible.
Physical Distancing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The maximum number of spectators is 100, provided physical distancing of two metres can be maintained.• Arrange seating to maintain distancing between parties. For example, assign seats, leave seats empty between groups and alternate rows of seating.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Use online ticket purchasing and, where possible, discourage “walk-up” admission.• Public access (including participants, media and spectators) should be limited to controlled points of entry, with designated “in” doors, if possible.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Where possible, assign designated entrances to different seating sections.○ Control line ups at entrances and exits.○ Staff access should be limited to one point of entry, separate from public entry, if possible.• Elevator use protocols, such as reducing capacity, should be established to facilitate distancing.• High-traffic areas should have one-way flow patterns and be monitored for distancing and hygiene practices.• Consider installing a physical barrier, such as an acrylic sheet, at all service counters to separate staff from patrons.• Recommend that spectators stay in their seats as much as possible to avoid crowding in common areas.• Consider how distancing will be maintained between staff and, where applicable, media.
Participant Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Schedule races with enough time in between to allow the previous group to vacate shared spaces, such as paddocks, and for staff to clean and disinfect high-touch surfaces before the next group arrives.• Limit the number of people in participant areas to only those necessary for vehicle safety and animal welfare.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Avoid group photography (e.g., “winners photos”) and podium ceremonies.• Consider limiting the number of races, or the number of participants in races, to facilitate distancing.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Follow national and provincial travel advisories and orders for participants.• <i>Animal Racing</i>: Consider physical distancing measures for jockeys, trainers and animal carers etc. such as modifying time requirements for reporting to staging and preparation areas.• <i>Vehicle Racing</i>: Consider physical distancing measures for drivers, mechanics and others, such as staggering vehicle maintenance times if space does not permit distancing between groups.• Shared-use vehicle racing (e.g. go-karts): Clean and disinfect helmets and high-touch surfaces in vehicles such as steering wheels, seat belts, etc.
Cleaning and Disinfection	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Regularly clean and disinfect high touch surfaces such as door handles, railings, chairs, customer counters, ATMs and payment devices.• Regularly clean and disinfect high-touch surfaces in public washrooms, staff rooms and participant locker rooms.• Clean and disinfect any shared-use equipment after participants or staff use.• Maintain cleaning logs and an inventory of supplies.• Respond immediately to sanitation concerns.
Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Self-monitor for symptoms of COVID-19. Anyone with symptoms should take the AHS Online Assessment Tool.• Arrange staffrooms and schedule break times to allow physical distancing.• Designate lockers and storage spaces to individual workers.• Ensure staff have access to hand washing facilities and/or hand sanitizer as required.• Staff may wear non-medical masks.