



FAQs on Essential Equine Activities During a Pandemic

Should boarders visit the barn?

Only if they provide primary care for their horse. If this is the case, time blocks should be established for those boarders to enter and provide that daily primary care. The boarder and farm owner/operator are responsible for ensuring CDC guidelines are adhered to throughout the visit to reduce potential exposures. Another option is to add full care board during this time.

What is considered essential veterinary and hoof care?

Essential care is that which is required during the pandemic to meet welfare standards. **Talk with your veterinarian** to determine what must be done now and what can wait.

[More on Equine Welfare from the AAEP](#)

A barn down the road is continuing to let people visit to see their horses and ride. Is this allowed?

Horse owners and horse farm owners/operators must understand the life and death nature of this time period. If a farm owner decides to allow entry to their property, they carry significant responsibilities for potential exposure to and spread of COVID-19. They also carry the burden of ensuring the CDC guidelines are adhered to by every person at the facility for the entire time they are there, and for establishing a tracking mechanism (check-in/check-out exposure log), should someone who was in their facility test positive. Given the circumstances, a farm owner should **check with their lawyer and insurance company**.

Can I ship a horse – either for sale or for breeding?

Horse owners need to determine if transportation is necessary for essential animal care, and then plan accordingly.

I want to do the right thing, but I also need to see my horse!

This is understandable. If you cannot see your horse due to barn closure, invent other strategies:

- 1) Request photos/videos of your horse
- 2) Identify a 'no direct contact' location to drop off treats for your horse

Consider bringing something for the people taking care of your horse during this incredibly difficult time. Please keep in mind all the tough decisions and hard times they are facing, as well.

What if I get sick and cannot care for my horse?

Having a plan is critical during these stressful times. Create a **Personal Preparedness Plan** to detail the essential care instructions for each of your horses.

Remember these are **general guidelines** and are **not state-specific**. Daily life constantly changes during a pandemic, so the best thing you can do is **contact your state agricultural agency** about specific situations.