



COVID-19 Action Plan

**Effective May 14, 2020
Updated November 2, 2020**

**Arkansas Quarter Horse Association
706 Elaine St, Benton, AR 72015
arqha@att.net**

**President: Mark Dunham 870-926-6404
First Vice President: Andi Ridgway 501-650-4842
Secretary: Jerry Beaty 501-258-9405**

Source document: **Phase II Directive Regarding Large Outdoor Venues and Face Coverings Directive** released by the Secretary of Health
<https://www.healthy.arkansas.gov/programs-services/topics/covid-19-health-guidances>
Included at the end of this document

Purpose & Scope

While there is no way to eliminate all risks related to COVID-19, the following requirements and recommendations are aimed to decrease the risk of COVID-19 infection. These requirements and recommendations are intended to ensure ArQHA organizers and participants are following the most recent guidance from federal, state, and other public health officials.

We are all in this together and the situation requires that each and every one of us take personal responsibility for the health, safety, and welfare of ourselves, our family members, and our colleagues and peers in the competition environment. Whether participant, competition organizer and staff, or vendor and support personnel, we each need to exercise caution, take precautionary measures, be accountable, and utilize good judgement at all times while interacting with one another at competitions.

Guidelines for Show Management

Access for Show Officials

- Require temperature monitoring for volunteers, officials, and competition staff once daily prior to entering the competition grounds. Anyone with a temperature below 99.5° F (37.5° C) may enter the facility.
- Anyone who exhibits [COVID-19 symptoms](#) or has been in contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 within the last two weeks, cannot enter the competition grounds.
- Notify ArQHA at arqha@att.net or 501-650-4842 if a person who was present on the competition grounds tests positive for COVID-19 within 14 days of the conclusion of competition.
- Require a facemask or face covering for all staff, officials, and volunteers when social distancing cannot be maintained. The facemask should be worn appropriately to cover both the mouth and nose.
- Communication – Use radio, phone and online communication methods as much as possible and communicate important information frequently throughout the competition grounds.

Signage

- Signs must be posted at all entrances advising the public not to enter if
 - They have fever, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, or loss of taste or smell.
 - They have had known exposure to someone with Covid-19 in the past 14 days.
- Signs must be posted at all entrances advising the public that they may wish to refrain from entering if
 - They are 65 years of age or older.
 - They have underlying health conditions including high blood pressure, chronic lung disease, diabetes, severe obesity, asthma, or weakened immunity.

Sample poster: [Symptoms of Coronavirus Disease](#)

- Post signage throughout the competition grounds (i.e. competition office, competition and

warm-up areas, barns, etc.) which includes recommendations about good hygiene along with informing participants and others about ways to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission.

Sample Poster: [CDC – Stop the Spread of Germs](#)

Social Distancing & Entries and/or Stabling

Enforce social distancing requirements throughout the competition grounds at all times.

- Prohibit the public, spectators, and non-essential personnel from being on the competition grounds.
- Arrange judges' and other officials' areas to comply with social distancing requirements.
- Restrict competition office access to essential personnel only, configure the space and limit the number of office staff to comply with social distancing, and limit the number of participants who can enter the competition office at one time (e.g., schedule check-in/check-out times)
- Configure stabling to comply with social distancing requirements in order to manage concentration of horses and people.

Guidelines for Competitors and Immediate Family

Participants are required to comply with these requirements at all times while present on competition grounds. Failure to do so may result in expulsion from the grounds. Participants acknowledge and agree to follow these guidelines with the entry into the show.

Access

- Participants should self-monitor their temperature once daily prior to entering the competition grounds. Anyone with a temperature below 99.5° F (37.5° C) may enter the facility.
- Anyone who exhibits [COVID-19 symptoms](#) or has been in contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 within the last two weeks, cannot enter the competition grounds.
- Participants and attendees are required to wear a facemask or face covering when social distancing cannot be maintained. The facemask should be worn appropriately to cover both the mouth and nose.

***A participant may choose to wear a facemask or face covering when mounted on a horse and cannot be disqualified or penalized for doing so while competing.*

Social Distancing/Participation Protocols

- Comply with social distancing requirements at all times while on the competition grounds.
- Wash hands often and adhere to other sanitization practices throughout the day.

Recommended Best Practices

Considerations for Facilities, Staff, Medical Personnel, Service Providers & Volunteers

- Social areas and sharing of food between attendees are strongly discouraged unless social distancing requirements are enforced
- Cleaning/Sanitizing Locations
 - Provide hand sanitization stations with access to soap and water or alcohol based hand sanitizer at each competition area and schooling/warm up area.

- Provide hand sanitizer to all officials, ring crew, office staff and maintenance staff.
- Frequently sanitize surfaces touched by many: door handles, arena gates, wash racks and hoses, etc.
- Ensure frequent cleaning and sanitizing of bathrooms, provide soap and water or alcohol based hand sanitizer in bathrooms.
- Prohibit the use of public water fountains.
- Show Office
 - Strongly encourage all competitors to complete entry forms, in their entirety, including having all requisite memberships in place, prior to entering competition office.
 - Strongly encourage that all entries, adds, scratches, feed & bedding orders, billing/invoicing are done electronically.
 - Install clear plastic, glass or other type of protective shield/barrier in front of office staff.
 - Provide hand sanitizer near the door.
 - Provide an 'in' door and an 'out' door, if possible.
 - Provide markers to delineate 6 feet spacing between people in the office and in any waiting lines (e.g., markers on floor).
 - Prepare and email competitor bills as early as possible.
 - Establish appointment times for checkout at the competition office.
- Service Providers and Vendors
 - Advise any service providers (e.g. vendors, foodservice, farrier, feed suppliers, waste disposal personnel) to take precautions in accordance with federal, state, local and facility regulations and CDC guidelines.
 - For onsite foodservice, consider requesting provision of pre-packaged food only.

Competition, Schooling and Exercise Area Considerations

- Utilize posted orders of go and/or published ride times including online orders of go and ride times.
- Limit and organize seating areas to comply with social distancing requirements. Every other row of seating should be unoccupied to provide for 6 feet of physical distancing.
- In classes where participants compete collectively, determine and communicate to participants, the maximum number of horses permitted in each competition area at one time based on the size of the competition areas and social distancing requirements.
 - Communicate with participants if classes will be divided and held in one or more sections.
- Consider utilizing technology for information transfer to mitigate the risk of virus spread by the manual transfer of paper (i.e. judge's cards, scoresheets, etc.).
- Competition patterns will be shared via electronic means only. They will be posted near the arena entry. No hard copies will be available.
- Daily results and score sheets will be shared via electronic means to mitigate the risk of virus spread by the manual transfer of paper.
- All payouts will be mailed within 2 weeks of the show conclusion

Recommended Best Practices for Participants

Access & Monitoring Considerations

- Limit access to stabling area and competition grounds to essential personnel only; discourage multiple family members from accompanying owners and riders.
- Provide adequate food and beverage supplies for your barn and your support staff for the duration of the competition to avoid unnecessary community exposure.

Cleaning & Sanitizing Considerations

- Provide hand sanitizer, gloves, masks, and other PPE deemed necessary to your barn staff and other personnel and encourage them to use these items on a regular basis.
- Do not mix equipment (tack, grooming supplies, lead shanks, etc.) and sanitize between each use.
- Regularly sanitize bikes/motorbikes/golf carts/car & truck door handles, stable doors, bucket handles, light switches, etc., and equipment including tack, grooming, feeding, stall cleaning materials, etc.

Additional Resources

Resources & Reference Tools

CDC (Centers for Disease Control)

[Symptoms of Coronavirus and treatment resources](#)

[Resources for Large Community Events and Mass Gatherings](#)

- [Q&A on Event Planning and COVID-19](#)
- [Guidance for Organizers - Mass Gatherings and Event Preparation](#)

Husch Blackwell

[State-by-State COVID-19 Resources](#)

USOPC (United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee)

[USOPC Sports Event Planning Considerations post-COVID-19](#)

[USOPC Return to Training Considerations post-COVID-19](#)

WHO (World Health Organization)

[Technical Guidance: Points of Entry and Mass Gatherings](#)

- [Q&A on Mass Gatherings and COVID-19](#)
- [Key Planning Recommendations for Mass Gatherings](#)
- [Considerations for Sports Federations/Sport Event Organizers when planning mass gatherings](#)



Arkansas Department of Health

4815 West Markham Street • Little Rock, Arkansas 72205-3867 • Telephone (501) 661-2000

Governor Asa Hutchinson

Nathaniel Smith, MD, MPH, Secretary of Health

Amended May 11, 2020

Effective Date: May 18, 2020

Phase 2 Revision Effective: June 15, 2020

Directive Regarding Large Indoor Venues

The Secretary of Health, in consultation with the Governor, has sole authority over all instances of quarantine, isolation, and restrictions on commerce and travel throughout Arkansas, as necessary and appropriate to control disease in the state of Arkansas as authorized by Ark. Code Ann. §20-7-109--110. Based on available scientific evidence, it is necessary and appropriate to take further action to ensure that COVID-19 remains controlled and that residents and visitors in Arkansas remain safe.

This directive covers indoor venues for commercial, community, or civic events and activities where an audience, spectators, or a gathering of people are present, such as at concerts, weddings, plays, movies, lectures, presentations, conferences, conventions, sporting events, races, fundraisers, trade shows, and festivals. **This revision for phase 2 increases the capacity allowed in the venue, as long as physical distancing of 6 feet can be achieved.**

Examples of such venues include auditoriums, lecture halls, movie theaters, other theaters, museums, arenas, sports venues, race tracks, stadiums, gymnasiums, auction houses, amusement centers, barns, exhibit halls, convention centers, and funeral homes. Examples also include recreational facilities, such as bowling alleys and trampoline parks.

Gatherings subject to this directive also include, without limitation, community, civic, public, leisure, commercial, or sporting events.

This directive is not intended to address the following, which are addressed under separate directives or guidance:

- Places of worship
- Community or School Sponsored Team Sports
- Casinos

The following requirements must be observed:

- A venue may increase the number of attendees at an event to up to 66 percent capacity for the facility with a plan approved by the Secretary of Health. Plans should be submitted to adh.ehs@Arkansas.gov.

- One hundred (100) people or fewer in attendance are allowed without a requirement to submit a plan.
- The performers/players/contestants must be separated from the audience by at least 12 feet and must be limited in number to fifty (50) or fewer.
- Lines or cues for entrance, exit, purchases, or other reasons must be marked or monitored for maintaining a distance of 6 feet between people.
- Seating must be arranged to maintain a 6-foot distance between members of the audience.
- Family groups may sit together, but 6 feet should be maintained between groups.
- Every other row of seating should be unoccupied to provide for 6 feet of physical distancing.
- Face coverings are required for all persons present, except for children under 10 years of age, who are exempt.
- Performers/players/contestants may be without a face covering if they are 12 feet from other persons.
- Signs must be posted at all entrances advising the public not to enter if:
 - They have fever, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, or loss of taste or smell.
 - They have had known exposure to someone with COVID-19 in the past 14 days.
- Signs must be posted at all entrances advising the public that they may wish to refrain from entering if:
 - They are 65 years of age or older.
 - They have underlying health conditions including high blood pressure, chronic lung disease, diabetes, severe obesity, asthma, or weakened immunity.
- Hand sanitizer stations must be available at all entrances and exits.
- Refreshments may be served. However, self-service operations, including, but not limited to, salad bars, buffets, and condiment bars shall not be allowed.
- Catered events are allowed with caterer-served buffets or plated meals.
- Seating must be arranged so that occupied seats are at least six (6) feet from seats at adjacent tables.
- The facility, including seating, shall be cleaned and disinfected before and after each use. Frequently touched surfaces shall be cleaned periodically during the course of the event. Products with an EPA-approved emerging viral pathogen claims are expected to be effective against COVID-19. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for these products. For a list of EPA-approved emerging pathogen sanitizers: <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2>.



Arkansas Department of Health

4815 West Markham Street • Little Rock, Arkansas 72205-3867 • Telephone (501) 661-2000

Governor Asa Hutchinson

José R. Romero, MD, Secretary of Health

Issued July 18, 2020

Effective July 20, 2020

Modified August 26, 2020

Modified October 5, 2020

Face Coverings Directive

The Secretary of Health, in consultation with the Governor, has sole authority over all instances of quarantine, isolation, and restrictions on commerce and travel throughout Arkansas, as necessary and appropriate to control disease in the state of Arkansas as authorized by Ark. Code Ann. §20-7-109—110 and the Rules and Regulations Pertaining to Reportable Disease (2019). Based on available scientific evidence, it is necessary and appropriate to take further action to ensure that COVID-19 remains controlled and that residents and visitors in Arkansas remain safe.

The Secretary of Health issues this Directive in conjunction with Executive Order 20-43, which ordered a public health directive, which was issued pursuant to the on-going public health emergency as declared in Executive Order 20-37. The Secretary of Health requires every person in Arkansas to wear a face covering completely over the mouth and nose in all indoor environments, excluding private residences, where they are exposed to non-household members and distancing of six (6) feet or more cannot be assured and in all outdoor settings, excluding private residences, where there is exposure to non-household members, unless there exists ample space of six (6) feet or more to practice physical distancing.

The following shall be exempt from wearing a face covering

- a. Persons younger than 10 years of age (This requirement shall not supersede any decision by the Secretary of Education, public school district, or private school to require masks for children younger than 10 years of age while attending school);
- b. Persons with a medical condition or disability that prevents wearing a face covering;
- c. Persons performing job duties where a six feet distance is not achievable, but a mask is inhibitory to the ability to safely and effectively perform the job duty;
- d. Persons participating in athletic activities where a six feet distance is not achievable, but a mask is inhibitory to the activity or active exercise;

- e. Persons consuming food or drink;
- f. Persons driving alone or with passengers from the driver's household;
- g. Persons receiving services that require access to the face for security, surveillance, or other purposes may temporarily remove a face covering while receiving those services;
- h. Persons voting, assisting voters, serving as poll watchers, or actively performing election administration duties; however, face coverings are strongly encouraged;
- i. Persons engaged in religious worship activities; however, face coverings are strongly encouraged;
- j. Persons giving a speech or performance for broadcast or to an audience; however, those persons shall safely distance from nearby individuals;
- k. Persons in counties where the Department of Health has certified that risk of community transmission of COVID-19 is low. To be considered low risk, the county must not have a newly identified case of COVID-19 for twenty-eight (28) consecutive days, assuming there has been adequate testing in the county.

This directive, effective July 20, 2020, should be read in conjunction with the previously issued directives addressing particular activities and venues.

A face covering completely covering the mouth and nose can be purchased commercially, a mask with an ASTM rating of at least Level 1, or homemade using at least two layers of material. Please see [CDC Considerations for Wearing Face Coverings](#) for more information. Masks with valves are not allowed. Bandanas and single-layer neck gaiters¹ (a form of mask made out of stretchy, moisture-wicking fabric that is worn around the neck and pulled up over the nose and mouth) may not provide sufficient protection and are strongly discouraged. Bandanas and gaiters may be doubled to provide two layers of protection. Simple plastic face shields worn without a mask are not considered to be mask substitutes. Masks with sewn-in clear plastic windows or clear plastic masks that seal around nose and chin, such as those utilized by those who are deaf or hard-of-hearing or when seeing lip movements is important, are acceptable.

¹ <https://advances.sciencemag.org/content/advances/early/2020/08/07/sciadv.abd3083.full.pdf>