



# FORT ERIE LIVE RACING CONSORTIUM

CHAPTER: HEALTH & SAFETY  
POLICIES & PROCEDURES  
SECTION: Section 18  
SUBJECT: Approved COVID -19 MONITORING PROTOCOL  
ISSUE TO: FORT ERIE LIVE RACING CONSORTIUM  
LOCATION: 230 Catherine St., Fort Erie, Ontario, Canada  
Date: March 30, 2020 - Updated – September 7 2021

APPROVED BY: Fort Erie Live Racing Consortium

SIGNATURE:

SHOULD ANY STATEMENT OF GENERAL POLICY OR APPLICATION THEREOF BE IN CONFLICT WITH ANY FEDERAL, PROVINCIAL OR LOCAL LAWS OR AGREEMENTS, SUCH LAWS OR AGREEMENTS MUST BE OBSERVED.

## PURPOSE

### *Standard Operating Procedure*

This policy and procedure guide is to cover any and all persons as it relates to COVID-19 SIMILAR VIRUSES and the precautions that need to be taken to ensure the safety of our employees, stakeholders and horses, and to reduce the risk of a COVID-19 virus outbreak at Fort Erie Race Track. This is a particularly concerning time given the situation globally. Many of the workers and horsepeople who will be returning to Fort Erie Race Track HAVE BEEN at other tracks and training facilities where screenings may not be occurring. Considering this and the potential risks associated with the COVID-19 outbreak, Fort Erie Race Track must implement measures to protect racing operations and livelihood for key stakeholders, as well as the health and safety of all individuals at our facility.

THE FELRC BELIEVES THE TRADITION OF STABLING HORSES THAT INTEND TO RACE IS A LONGSTANDING COMMITMENT BY THOROUGHBRED TRACKS AND IT IS AN ESSENTIAL FUNCTION TO ASSIST IN THE HORSE RACING ECONOMICS AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY. THIS IS A RISK ON EVERYONE'S PART AND THE ONLY WAY IT CAN BE SUCCESSFUL IS IF EVERYONE APPRECIATES THAT, EMBRACES THE SPIRIT OF THIS POLICY AND COMPLIES WITH THE POLICY FAITHFULLY. HORSERACING HAS NOT BEEN DEEMED AN ESSENTIAL SERVICE BY THE GOVERNMENT BUT, ANIMAL CARE, FEED AND EXERCISE HAS BEEN.

**Following directive from the Canadian Government, all people entering Canada must complete a mandatory 14-day self isolation period upon arrival in the country under the new Quarantine Act. Failure to comply with the order could result in fines up to \$750,000 and/or imprisonment for six months.**

**As of September 22, 2021, under provincial regulations all spectators must be fully vaccinated in order to attend horse racing venues across Ontario. FELRC will require all employees, horsepeople and contractors to be fully vaccinated or participate in the weekly antigen rapid testing program.**

## SCOPE

The protocols and procedures herein will apply to ALL persons who ARE APPROVED FOR access or who work/race in any area at Fort Erie Race Track, including Stable Areas, Paddock, and Clubhouse. *The protocols and procedures herein will also apply to spectators who are attending live racing.*

## STANDARDS / PROCEDURES

### ***Stable Area***

The following are activities and tasks that are required to be in place prior to implementation of this standard operating procedure:

Upon arrival in Canada, horsepeople are required to contact the Race Office to notify that they have arrived in Canada and have started their 14 -day self quarantine period. Valid proof of entry into Canada will be required, such as a boarding pass, border slip, photo proof of current presence in Canada, etc.

The Race Office will develop a list of horsepeople who are seeking access to the backstretch. They must have approved stall applications and proof of 14-day quarantine in Canada.

The Race Office will provide security with a daily list of horsepeople and operating personnel who are eligible to enter the backstretch stable area. Individuals not on this list will not be granted access to the backstretch FOR ANY REASON.

Upon arrival to the backstretch gate, all persons entering the Stable Area must provide an approved and valid AGCO licence. When provided, Security Guards will start with procedures for entry.

Once the horseperson has passed the requirements above; Security will then proceed.

1. Access will only be through the West Access Security Gate, where Security Guards will ask preapproved questions.
  - a. *Have you travelled outside of Canada in the last 14 days?*
  - b. *Do you have any symptoms of COVID-19, such as fever, cough, unusual muscle aches, tiredness, and/or difficulty breathing?*
  - c. *Have you been in contact with any person who has travelled outside of Canada in the last 14 days?*
  - d. *Have you completed the required 14-day self-quarantine period?*
2. If the answer is **YES** to the first three questions, entry will be denied at this time.
3. If the answer is **NO**, Security will continue with the entry process.
4. **Security will monitor and restrict any access to the Stable Area if any concerns are noted.**
5. Horsepeople returning to Canada must follow all mandatory quarantine protocols set forth by the government, and as per above, must provide proof of being in Canada and assurances that they have followed these protocols.

6. **Security will perform a temperature check on all horsepeople every time they enter the Stable Area/Backstretch FOR ANY REASON.**
7. Security will wear personal protective equipment at all times.
8. All equipment used for checks and screenings will be cleaned and sanitized regularly, as prescribed by Health Canada or otherwise instructed by FELRC.
9. **Once access is permitted, waivers must be signed BY THE HORSEPERSON ACKNOWLEDGING THIS POLICY, TERMS AND UNDERTAKING FULL COMPLIANCE, and a sticker will be issued upon initial entry to the backstretch for the season.**
10. When shipping drivers and any passengers are delivering horses to the stable area, if they have not passed all screening procedures they will not be allowed to exit the vehicle. In order for horses to be safely escorted off of trailers, drivers will be allowed to drive into the unloading lot in the stable area, however they will be required to remain seated in their vehicles while horses are escorted off the trailers and to the designated barns BY OTHER APPROVED STAFF OR HORSEPEOPLE.
11. NOBODY IS ALLOWED INTO THE BACKSTRETCH WITHOUT SECURITY TAKING THEIR TEMPERATURE AND THE RESULT BEING BELOW 100.5F EACH AND EVERY TIME.

#### ***Spectators:***

***To ensure the safety of all Fort Erie Race Track's staff, there will be a limited number of spectators allowed access to the track.***

- All spectators must register online through [www.forterieracing.com](http://www.forterieracing.com), or at the main entrance with security to attend live racing.
- As part of the registration process, they will be asked the following question:  
*Have you or your guest experienced symptoms of COVID-19, or have been issued a positive COVID-19 TEST result in the last 14 days?*  
If they answer yes to either of those questions, they will be denied entry to the track.
- All spectators must enter the track through the main entrance and have their temperature taken in order to gain access to the track.

#### ***Clubhouse / Grandstand***

- A limited number of spectators will be granted access at this time to the following areas of the Fort Erie Race Track property, including the paddock, the trackside apron, the seating deck, and parking areas.
- A set of doors to the clubhouse side of the building will be open in order for spectators to access the apron and seating deck. A set of doors to the Racebook will be open for washroom access as well as apron access. There will be **NO** loitering indoors.
- Washrooms in the Racebook and clubhouse will be open, but urinals will be limited to allow for spacing.
- Spectators must wear a mask unless seated. There is a limit of **6 people** per table. No sitting is allowed at the bar. All surfaces, including tables and chairs will be sanitized.
- All mutuels as well as food and beverage offerings will be on the Aprons and the Paddock Shack.
- Security Office will remain open for any assistance during this time.
- All other gates and doors will remain locked and closed.
- Only essential personnel will have access to the press box through the clubhouse.

## PREVENTATIVE

### ***Stop the Spread***

In order to help stop the spread of COVID-19, Security will REMIND all horsepeople who have been approved to enter the Stable Area of the following KEY PRACTICES OF THIS POLICY:

- Washing hands multiple times per day and before eating is the most important way to stop the spread of COVID-19. Please use our hand washing stations upon entering and exiting all areas within the Stable Area. Use every opportunity at any of the washrooms located throughout the backstretch to wash your hands. If unable to wash your hands with soap and water, utilize alcohol-based hand sanitizer. DO NOT TOUCH YOUR FACE, NOSE, EYES ETC WITH YOUR HANDS.
- Practice safe distancing by remaining 2 meters away from other people.
- Cover your mouth and nose with your arm, PREFERRABLY with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Dispose of the tissue immediately. DO NOT USE HANDKERCHIEFS and wash your hands promptly.
- The backstretch is for business only and not for social gatherings or groups, including activities in the recreation hall and backstretch kitchen. People are advised to complete required work and then leave the backstretch. While at the track they should maintain distance and avoid contact with other individuals.

Only horsepeople who are provided clearance by the Security team member through answering “NO” to the first 3 questions and have a temperature of less than 100.5F through the use of a no-touch digital thermometer reading, will be cleared for access to the Stable Area.

### ***Cleaning Protocols***

Maintenance Cleaners will develop additional cleaning protocols which will include increased cleaning frequency of high-risk surfaces. Additional resources may be required and will be determined and deployed by the Maintenance Managers.

The Fort Erie Housekeeping team members will be trained and informed of additional cleaning requirements and personal/public protection guidelines, and issued appropriate PPE.

### ***Security Training***

Security will develop and brief all Security team members on all new access control procedures, monitoring and reporting requirements. Security Manager will develop procedures to ensure that all suspected or confirmed cases of COVID-19 infection are properly communicated and documented.

### ***Staff Testing***

All employees will be required to undergo daily testing upon arrival for their shift. Staff will be required to answer the 4 mandatory screening questions and have their temperature read using a no-touch digital thermometer. Testing will be done by a supervisor, or if not available by another employee, and entered into a log book.

If an employee becomes sick while on shift, they are to notify their supervisor immediately when they start to feel ill and will be sent home. The COO will be contacted and further action will be taken.

If an employee becomes ill outside of working hours, they are asked to contact their supervisor to notify them immediately so further action can be taken if needed.

## **RISKS**

Any person who is showing visible signs of illness consistent with COVID-19 exposure or who has communicated that they have recently traveled from a country outside of Canada within the last 14 days will not be granted access to the backstretch or any area at Fort Erie Race Track. The Security Supervisor will log the incident in the Security Patrol book and complete an incident log sheet.

Security Supervisor or Management will use a no-touch digital thermometer to obtain a person's temperature reading. A total of two (2) checks with the thermometer will be required and recorded over a 3-minute period and the average of the two recordings will determine the confirmed temperature.

The Security Supervisor will then document the following:

1. Date and Time
2. Name
3. Credential Number
4. License Plate Number
5. Temperature #1
6. Temperature #2
7. Average Temperature

The Security Manager or the COO will be contacted to provide further screening and investigation if there is any doubt regarding the screening process. The Security Manager or the COO may at their discretion deny access if there is any perceived risk of COVID-19.

### **ALTERNATIVE #1**

IN THE OPINION of the Security Supervisor, IF THEY FEEL that there is a COVID-19 risk, they will prohibit access and document the occurrence in the System. For these cases, the Security Supervisor will review the evidence to determine the level of risk that exists.

**IF THIS OCCURS, THEN IT WILL BE UP TO THE PERSON BEING DENIED ENTRY TO SEEK PROFESSIONAL MEDICAL ASSESSMENT AND UPON RETURN, SURRENDER SUCH PROOF.**

### **ALTERNATIVE #2**

If a confirmed OR LIKELY case of COVID-19 exposure or infection is determined by the Security Supervisor, the Security Manager or the COO will be contacted immediately, and determine further actions and emergency response necessary by FELRC to maintain a safe working environment.

### ***Monitoring the Stable Area***

Security team members and assigned racing personnel will provide regular support and periodic screening, including obtaining temperature readings using a no-touch digital thermometer of those stakeholders who work or have access to any area of the stable area including, paddock, barns, trailers and other outdoor areas.

**Step # 1.**

In cases where the Security team member or assigned Racing personnel deems any horseperson or employee in the stable area to be at risk of COVID-19 exposure, the Security Supervisor will be notified immediately for review of evidence and determination of further action IN LINE WITH THIS POLICY.

**Step # 2.**

Upon investigation of any such case, the Security Supervisor will ensure the incident is documented in the Patrol book and will contact the Security Manager or COO/CEO regarding the situation where escalation, including mandatory quarantine FROM THE FORT ERIE RACETRACK PROPERTY.

**Step # 3.**

If a SUSPECTED case of COVID-19 exposure or infection is determined by Security Supervisor, Security Manager or the COO will be contacted immediately and if necessary, the Security Supervisor will further review and determine further actions and emergency response necessary by FELRC to maintain a safe working environment.

## **PROTOCOLS**

Fort Erie Live Racing Consortium will be implementing the following changes to operating procedures:

1. New daily screening protocols.
2. Only essential licensed personnel and horse people will be permitted to access the stable area to care directly for the horses racing or training.
3. Travel restrictions and special screening
4. Use of a no-touch digital thermometer
5. Expand best practice procedures
6. Security will now be asking the screening questions upon each entry to the backstretch.
7. The daily screening questions will consist of questions #1, #2 #3 and #4.
8. Upon the resumption of live racing, additional protocols may be implemented as the situation dictates.

**ESSENTIAL PERSONNEL ONLY**

1. Only licensed stable area employees will be granted access to the Stables. Horse owners can watch their horses train as well as visit them on the backstretch. No unlicensed person or guest will be allowed access into the Stables at this time.
2. No person(s) under the age of 16 with or without license will be admitted.
3. No unlicensed children will be allowed to enter the Stable Area at any time
4. Only licensed persons with direct work requirement for horses listed to qualify or race as entered will be allowed entrance post screening.
5. Horsepersons are required to vacate the Paddock ten minutes after their last race.
6. High Level restrictions in the Paddock when approval is issued to occupy that area.

## **RESTRICTIONS**

### ***Travelling within Canada***

Anyone travelling from within Canada will have to go through the screening process.

### ***Traveling from the US***

Security will record the name of person, date of return, contact information and State they are coming from.

Anyone returning from US will be required to self-isolate for a minimum of 14 days before access to the stable area is granted.

Once horsepeople who have travelled from the United States PROVIDE PROOF OF 14 DAY ISOLATION PERIOD AND go through the screening process, they will be closely monitored, and additional questions will be required before entry is permitted into the Stable area.

FOR THE SAFETY OF EVERYONE INVOLVED, Additional screening questions may be used, specific to recent visits to US racetracks that have been affected by COVID-19 infections/exposure.

### ***Traveling from overseas***

Security will record the name of person, date of return, contact info and country they are coming from.

Anyone returning from overseas will not be permitted into the stable area and must self-isolate for a minimum of 14 days and provide assurances of this isolation term before access into the stable area.

### ***No-touch digital thermometer***

The no-touch digital thermometer will be used as an advanced screening process at the Stable gate security booth. This process will be required daily before anyone can enter the Stable Area. FELRC personnel will check each person trying to access the stables and anyone with a temperature of 100.5F degrees will be denied access until further screening by a security management member.

## **DAILY REMINDERS**

Best practices will be followed daily.

1. Screening – to be done daily of questions, 1 to 4
2. Approve or deny access
3. Social distancing
4. Wash hands multiple times throughout the day
5. All common areas will be closed to the horsemen and the public
6. Ensure barn washrooms are cleaned and disinfected daily.

## **VIOLATIONS**

**Any horseperson who refuses to follow THIS POLICY, proper safety procedures, and/or acts in a manner that IN THE OPINION OF FORT ERIE RACTERACK AND IT'S DESIGNATED EMPLOYEES may increase the risk of COVID-19 exposure or spread will be IMMEDIATELY ESCORTED OFF AND TRESPASSED from the property for an undetermined amount of time.**

**There will be zero tolerance for anyone lying or breaching the rules.**

Any decision to trespass a visitor will be at the sole discretion of the Security Supervisor or Manager.

CEO will be notified immediately if such situation arises.

**The Fort Erie Live Racing Consortium takes the COVID- 19 outbreak very seriously, and with the best of their ability, has set forth to protect the horsepeople and employees currently employed at the Fort Erie Race Track.**

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

I \_\_\_\_\_ acknowledge that I have read and understand the contents of the above operating procedures and agree to comply with the requirements outlined in this policy.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ . Date \_\_\_\_\_ .