

HORSE RIDING CLUBS ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA COVID-19 ADVICE

STAGE 3 – REGIONAL VICTORIA & STAGE 4 - METROPOLITAN MELBOURNE



IMPORTANT TO NOTE: A STATE OF DISASTER HAS BEEN DECLARED IN THE STATE OF VICTORIA

Please note that HRCVA is not an expert on pandemics and as such all [Victorian Government](#) and [Department of Health and Human Services](#) information, guidelines and directives supersede this information. We acknowledge and thank Equestrian Sports NZ for their permission to adapt their Covid-19 Alert Plan for Victoria. The following information is presented in conjunction with Equestrian Victoria (EV) and Pony Club Victoria (PCV), with the purpose of informing our equestrian community on how we are responding to Covid-19, and to provide recommendations for what we believe is the best course of action for all equestrian groups/clubs, facilities, officials and members. There will be areas where advice varies slightly between organisations depending on that group's area of responsibility. Horse owners are expected to consider the intent of the restrictions and err on the side of caution.

This document may change as the government response to the Covid-19 situation evolves. The most up to date information will be available on the HRCVA website, distributed through our Social Media channels, and direct communications to Clubs. We will monitor the government restriction levels as we move between different stages, and if there is more flexibility for equestrian activities, we will update these recommendations in line with government advice.

All of the Victorian equestrian community should be aware of and consider their own situations at any given time and apply common sense. The Victorian Government has released Stage Restrictions which may vary for different parts of the state.

STAGE 4 - METROPOLITAN MELBOURNE RESTRICTIONS

On 2nd August the Victorian Premier, The Hon. Daniel Andrews, announced the following directions to abide by:

From 6PM on Sunday 2nd August 2020, restrictions changed for metropolitan Melbourne. Metropolitan Melbourne moved to Stage 4 Restrictions. The definition of metropolitan Melbourne is based on the Planning and Environment Act 1987 which sets out the local government areas that form metropolitan Melbourne, and does not include Mitchell Shire for the purposes of the Stage 4 curfew or travel restrictions. These changes were introduced to reduce the number of people leaving their homes and moving around Victoria.

From 2nd August, a curfew was put in place in metropolitan Melbourne. Curfews will be in operation from 8pm to 5am every evening, with people only allowed to leave their house for work, and essential health, care or safety reasons.

From 5am– 8pm, you can only leave your home for one of the following four reasons:

- **To purchase food and necessary supplies.**

This must be done within a 5km radius from where you live. Only 1 person per household can leave for essential goods, and only once per day. For some people the nearest goods and services will be more than 5km away. In this situation you may travel beyond 5km to the nearest provider. If you are unable to leave home because it would mean leaving a young child or at-risk person at home unattended, then they may accompany you.

- **Exercise**

Once a day for up to 1 hour within a 5km radius of your home. Gathering sizes will be limited to 2. If you are unable to leave home because it would mean leaving a young child or at-risk person at home unattended, then they may accompany you.

- **For care and healthcare**

Including accompanying someone for essential medical care if you are a carer, guardian or necessary support person. The 5km limit does not apply to care or care giving.

- **Work**

Study at TAFE and university must be done remotely. The 5km limit does not apply to work.

If you do need to leave home, you should wash your hands before you leave and when you return home.

- Keep at least 1.5 metres between yourself and others. Always wear a face covering, unless you have a lawful exception.
- Never, ever, go out, if you are unwell, unless it is to get tested and then you must go straight home and self-isolate.
- For the complete detail around the permitted reasons to leave home, please refer to the DHHS website:

<https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/updated-restrictions-announcement-2-august-covid-19>

STAGE 3 - REGIONAL VICTORIA RESTRICTIONS

From 11:59PM on Wednesday 5 August, Stage 3 Stay at Home restrictions applied in Victoria, except if you live in metropolitan Melbourne where Stage 4 restrictions apply. The definition of metropolitan Melbourne is based on the Planning and Environment Act 1987 which sets out the local government areas that form metropolitan Melbourne.

If you live in regional Victoria, including Mitchell Shire, there are only four reasons that you can leave home:

- To shop for food and essential goods or services
- To provide care, for compassionate reasons or to seek medical treatment
- To exercise or for outdoor recreation with your household, or one other person
- For work or study, if you can't do it from home

You may no longer have visitors to your home or visit other people in their homes.

From 11:59PM on Sunday 2nd August 2020, all Victorians must wear a face covering when they leave home, no matter where they live.

FUTURE EQUESTRIAN ACTIVITY–RETURN TO RIDING

A Return to Riding Plan will be actioned as and when restrictions are changed, allowing a 'Return to Covid Safe Riding'.

OTHER USEFUL LINKS AND RESOURCES

- [Department of Health and Human Services](#)
- [Sport and Recreation Victoria](#)
- or the DHHS Coronavirus Hotline 1800 675 398

CONTACT YOUR GOVERNING BODY:

- [Pony Club Victoria \(PCV\)](#)
- [Equestrian Victoria \(EV\)](#)
- [Horse Riding Clubs Association of Victoria \(HRCVA\)](#)

**STAGE 4 - HRC AV VICTORIA ADVICE DURING COVID-19 STAGE 3
IMPLEMENTED FOR METROPOLITAN MELBOURNE UNTIL 13 SEPTEMBER 2020**



STAGE 4	Victorian Government Directives	HRC AV Measures Undertaken	What Stage4 means for Clubs	What Stage4 means for HRC AV Members
<p>In place from 6PM on Sunday 2 August for Metropolitan Melbourne.</p>	<p>Introduced to reduce the number of people leaving their homes and moving around Victoria.</p> <p>CURFEW 8PM – 5AM A curfew will be in place in metropolitan Melbourne. Curfews will be in operation from 8pm to 5am every evening, with people only allowed to leave their house for work, and essential health, care or safety reasons.</p> <p>STAY AT HOME People instructed to stay at home other than for 4 essential reasons listed below.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Necessary Goods & Services 2. Exercise 3. Care and healthcare 4. Work <p>Melbourne residents are also able to leave the home for personal reasons.</p> <p>NO VISITORS You may no longer have visitors to your home or visit other people in their homes.</p> <p>NO TRAVEL Travel is severely limited.</p> <p>OUTDOOR & INDOOR FACILITIES CLOSED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outdoor facilities are closed. • Indoor sporting facilities are closed. • All Riding Schools and Centres should be closed to the public. <p>FOR BUSINESSES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes introduced for businesses will mean around 1 million Victorians are no longer moving around the state for work. • For information on how these restrictions relate to businesses, including the creation of a Covid-Safe plan, please refer to: https://www.vic.gov.au/coronavirus-covid-19-restrictions-victoria 	<p>OFFICE CLOSED WORK FROM HOME The HRC AV office is closed. Staff are working from home and any business is being conducted online or by phone.</p> <p>NO EQUESTRIAN COMPETITIONS OR ACTIVITIES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No equestrian competitions are taking place (either cancelled or postponed). • To be reviewed in line with Government guidelines and directives. <p>MEETINGS & WORKSHOPS Meetings, committees, workshops taking place via online.</p>	<p>NO EQUESTRIAN COMPETITIONS OR ACTIVITIES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No equestrian competitions, rallies or other organised activity to take place. • To be reviewed in line with Government guidelines and directives. <p>OUTDOOR & INDOOR FACILITIES CLOSED All club facilities must be closed</p> <p>MEETINGS & WORKSHOPS Group/club/committee meetings/workshops should only take place online</p>	<p>KEY MESSAGE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Everyone is being encouraged not to ride where possible, in order to reduce the pressure on emergency services in case of an accident. <p>EXERCISING & CARING FOR YOUR HORSE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You are unable to leave your home to ride your horse for recreation or personal exercise. You may ride your horse if you are home on your own property See DHHS advice: https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/sport-and-exercise-metropolitan-melbourne-covid-19#can-i-go-horse-riding-if-i-live-in-metropolitan-melbourne • The RSPCA have advised you have a legal obligation to ensure animals in your care are provided with proper and sufficient food, water, shelter and veterinary treatment when necessary, while minimising travel. • You can leave home to care for your horse/s if you are not able to make alternative arrangements. This includes travelling more than 5 kms from home or leaving Melbourne for this purpose. • Please be mindful that you may be required to provide evidence for leaving restricted areas as police are conducting spot checks. We suggest a letter from the owner of the property where your horse is kept. • Exercise is an element of care and is permitted if essential for the welfare of the horse. You should avoid taking the horse off the property for exercise. • A person who is travelling to exercise and/or care for an animal may travel with one other person from the same household. • Please refer to RSPCA Guidelines https://kb.rspca.org.au/knowledge-base/can-i-leave-my-home-to-care-for-animals-during-the-covid-19-pandemic/ on advice for caring for your horse during the pandemic. <p>Whilst caring for your animal, you must ensure that all necessary health measures are followed such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wash hands before and after and or use hand sanitiser. • Only do the minimum that you need to do to care for the animal. • Use your own grooming kit, tack and equipment. • Agistment Centres must set up a roster and limit the number of persons on the property at anyone time. • Members should still refer to the agistment centre owner for specific restrictions and requirements implemented at the facility. • You are only allowed to exercise your horse with one other person or household members. • Training should be done at home only. <p>COACHING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From 11:59 PM on Wednesday 5 August, coaches and trainers must work from home and use online and video conferencing facilities to deliver their coaching and training. The exception to this rule is if the coach/trainer is providing services to a rider(s) already within their household. <p>VETS & EQUINE SERVICES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vets and other equine services (eg. farriers) are considered essential services and are permitted on the grounds only while there is a general animal welfare issue, whilst meeting their obligations as a COVID Safe Business and adhering to social distancing and hygiene requirements.

**STAGE 3 - HRCAV ADVICE DURING COVID-19 STAGE 3
IMPLEMENTED FOR REGIONAL VICTORIA UNTIL 13 SEPTEMBER 2020**



STAGE 3	Victorian Government Directives	HRCAV Measures Undertaken	What STAGE3 means for Clubs	What STAGE 3 means for HRCAV Members
<p>In place 6pm on Sunday 2nd August for Regional Victoria (including the Mitchell Shire).</p>	<p>Introduced to reduce the number of people leaving their homes and moving around Victoria. If you live in regional Victoria, including Mitchell Shire, there are only four reasons that you can leave home:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> To shop for food and essential goods or services To provide care, for compassionate reasons or to seek medical treatment to exercise or for outdoor recreation with your household, or one other person for work or study, if you can't do it from home <p>NO VISITORS</p> <p>You may no longer have visitors to your home or visit other people in their homes.</p> <p>OUTDOOR & INDOOR FACILITIES CLOSED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indoor sports centres including gyms, training facilities and pools are closed. Some*outdoor sport facilities are closed. <p>ORGANISED COMPETITIONS & ACTIVITIES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community sport training and competition cannot occur. <p>EXERCISE LIMITATIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> You can only exercise or undertake sporting activities outside with one other person or household members. You must be able to keep 1.5 metres distance between yourself and others. You should exercise and use outdoor facilities at the closest available location to your home. <p>PERSONAL TRAINING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Personal training outdoors can occur but with a limit of two participants, in addition to the instructor. <p>FACE COVERINGS</p> <p>All Victorian's if you are outside your home, you MUST wear a face covering.</p> <p>FOR BUSINESSES:</p> <p>Changes introduced for businesses will mean around 1 million Victorians are no longer moving around the state for work.</p> <p>For information on how these restrictions relate to businesses, including the creation of a Covid-Safe plan, please refer to: https://www.vic.gov.au/coronavirus-covid-19-restrictions-victoria</p>	<p>HRCAV OFFICE CLOSED WORK FROM HOME</p> <p>The HRCAV office is closed. Staff are working from home and any business is being conducted online or by phone.</p> <p>NO EQUESTRIAN COMPETITIONS OR ACTIVITIES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No equestrian competitions are taking place (either cancelled or postponed). To be reviewed in line with Government guidelines and directives. <p>MEETINGS & WORKSHOPS</p> <p>Meetings, committees, workshops taking place via online.</p>	<p>NO EQUESTRIAN COMPETITIONS OR ACTIVITIES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No equestrian competitions, rallies or other organised activity to take place. To be reviewed in line with Government guidelines and directives. <p>OUTDOOR EXERCISE</p> <p>Only allowed to exercise, with one other person or household members, provided 1.5 metres distance can be maintained.</p> <p>OUTDOOR FACILITIES</p> <p>*Outdoor facilities maybe open where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> public gathering and physical distancing limits (1.5 metres and only with one other person or household members) can be adhered to. and there is no use of shared equipment or communal facilities. <p>For outdoor facilities that meet the requirements above and where access is controlled by a club, a booking system is required to be in place to ensure that all restrictions are met.</p> <p>INDOOR FACILITIES</p> <p>Indoor facilities must close.</p> <p>MEETINGS & WORKSHOPS</p> <p>Group/club/committee meetings/workshops should only take place online.</p>	<p>KEY MESSAGES FOR EQUESTRIAN ACTIVITIES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> keep it low risk, keep it local, remain within your current abilities, and don't start new activities or a new discipline at this time. <p>EXERCISING & CARING FOR YOUR HORSE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Travel to care for your horse/s, is allowed. This includes exercising. However, all necessary health and safety measures will need to be followed. If you are unable to exercise your horse safely on the property where the horse is kept, you may ride off "off property" but keep the riding as local and as risk free as possible. You may float your horse to a safe, local, outdoor facility. Members who agist should still refer to the Agistment Centre/facility owner for specific restrictions and requirements implemented at the facility. <p>AGISTMENT CENTRES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agistment Centres must set up a roster and limit the number of persons on the property at any one time. Equipment should not be shared or touched by other people. <p>INDOOR FACILITIES CLOSED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indoor sport and recreation facilities are CLOSED. <p>GROUP ACTIVITIES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group activities with anyone outside your household are not allowed. Activities are to be limited to one other person or household members. <p>LESSONS</p> <p>Coaches may continue to coach outdoors and those receiving instruction can only do so with one other person or household member, and only under the following conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coaching may take place at private and/or agistment facilities. If you are unwell or have Covid Symptoms you must stay home or get tested. You can go horse-riding off-property with members of your household or one other person, plus an instructor if required. You should not travel further than you need to, and you should horse ride at the closest available location to your home. Coaches may not travel into a Stage4 area to coach. There should be NO organized CLUB activity. You must be able to keep 1.5m distance between yourself and others Strict hygiene practices must be practiced Any shared essential equipment such as gates, jump wings, dressage arena sets should be sanitised before and after use. Sharing of equipment such as helmets gloves and whips is not permitted. <p>FLOATING YOUR HORSE NON ESSENTIAL TRAVEL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The floating of horses outside of your home for training/coaching is considered non-essential travel. <p>VETS & EQUINE SERVICES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vets and other equine services (e.g. farriers) are considered essential services and are permitted on the grounds of animal welfare, whilst adhering to social distancing and hygiene requirements.