



# Reopening New York

## Guidelines for Racing Activities



These guidelines apply to all racing activities statewide. See [“Interim COVID-19 Guidance for Racing”](#) for full details.

During the COVID-19 public health emergency, all licensed or franchised operators of racetracks should stay up to date with any changes to state and federal requirements related to racing activities and incorporate those changes into their operations. This guidance is not intended to replace any existing applicable local, state, and federal laws, regulations, and standards.

Effective April 22, 2021, racetracks may host races with a limited number of spectators, pursuant to the applicable spectator and patron provisions contained within the Department of Health’s (DOH) [“Interim COVID-19 Guidance for Professional Sports Competitions with Fans,”](#) including but not limited to outdoor and indoor venue capacity restrictions, testing/immunization/health screening, social distancing, face coverings, controlled movement, hand hygiene, cleaning and disinfection, and communication.

### Mandatory

#### Physical Distancing

- ✓ Ensure licensed personnel stand at least 6 ft. away from other groups of people not traveling with them while standing in lines, using elevators/escalators, or moving around the property, to the extent possible.
- ✓ Any time individuals are less than 6 ft. apart from one another, they must wear acceptable face coverings.
- ✓ Small spaces (e.g. elevators, vehicles) should be occupied by only one individual at a time, unless all occupants are wearing face coverings. If occupied by more than one person, keep occupancy under 50% of maximum capacity.
- ✓ Establish designated areas for pick-ups and deliveries, limiting contact to the extent possible.
- ✓ The following shipping protocols shall be observed:
  - Trainers Currently Stabled: Trainers with stalls on racetrack grounds and staff in place may bring horses onto a racetrack property with the explicit approval of the Racing Secretary. No off-property staff shall accompany a horse onto racetrack property.
  - Trainers Stabled Off Racetrack Grounds: Trainers awarded stalls may ship horses to racetrack grounds. All accompanying personnel shall access racetrack property through the common gate and shall follow protocols for entrance but will be denied if they do not clear. If the trainer does not have any present on-track personnel, the horses will not be allowed in the facility.

### Recommended Best Practices

- ✓ Create additional space for employees by limiting in-person presence to only personnel necessary for the current task(s), adjusting workplace hours, staggering arrival/departure times, creating A/B teams, and/or scheduling only one team in an area at a time.
- ✓ Modify the use and/or restrict the number of workstations and employee seating areas to maintain 6 ft. distance and avoid multiple crews and/or teams working in one area. If not feasible, provide and require face coverings or enact physical barriers (e.g. plastic shielding walls), in accordance with [OSHA guidelines](#), in areas where they would not impair air flow, heating, cooling, or ventilation.
- ✓ Dormitory residences should provide adequate physical distancing, with residents housed in the smallest groups possible and beds at least 6 ft. apart, where possible. Residences should be cleaned and disinfected, and ventilation should be increased (e.g. open windows and doors).
- ✓ Reduce bi-directional foot traffic by posting signs with arrows in narrow aisles, hallways, or spaces.
- ✓ Where possible, new residents should be housed together and avoid mixing with existing residents.
- ✓ Post social distancing markers using tape or signs that denote 6 ft. of spacing in commonly used and other applicable areas on the site (e.g. health screening stations).

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### Recommended Best Practices

<p><b>Physical Distancing (Cont'd)</b></p>	<p>Trainers Shipping in to Run and Depart: Trainers who are not stabling on racetrack property may ship (a) horse(s) to race, however their horse(s) and licensed personnel must be held at a quarantine barn, until the personnel are tested for COVID-19.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ If not possible to use separate sleeping quarters and bathroom facilities for those under quarantine, the Gaming Commission and local department of health must be notified</li> <li>✓ Any backstretch kitchens and food trucks are allowed to operate for takeout and delivery only, and people are not allowed to congregate; seating in kitchens shall not be permitted.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Access to Racetrack Grounds</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Establish and maintain a listing of all personnel necessary to access the racetrack grounds. Access to racetrack grounds shall be limited to those on the list.</li> <li>✓ Decline entry to all individuals except those individuals who present valid State racing license and racetrack credentials and have been identified as essential personnel.</li> <li>✓ Audience, fans, or spectators shall only be authorized to attend or permitted entrance to any racetrack as advised above, effective April 22, 2021.</li> <li>✓ Compile a daily master list from horsemen, operations, regulatory staff, and facilities, which contains licensees reasonably expected to be required to report to work on a given day.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Limit access to racetrack grounds to a single point of entry.</li> </ul>



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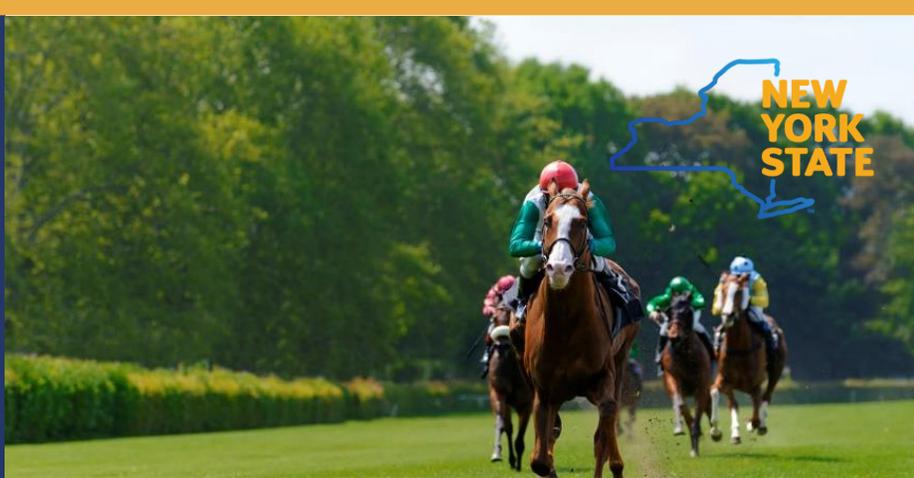
### Recommended Best Practices

	Mandatory	Recommended Best Practices
<b>Protective Equipment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Provide personnel with an acceptable face covering at no-cost to personnel and have an adequate supply of coverings in case of replacement.</li> <li>✓ Acceptable face coverings include but are not limited to cloth (e.g. homemade sewn, quick cut, bandana) and surgical masks, unless the nature of the work requires stricter PPE (e.g. N95 respirator, face shield).</li> <li>✓ Face coverings must be cleaned or replaced after use or when damaged or soiled, may not be shared, and should be properly stored or discarded.</li> <li>✓ Limit the sharing of objects (e.g. buckets, hoses) and discourage touching of shared surfaces; or, when in contact with shared objects or frequently touched areas, wear gloves (trade-appropriate or medical); or, sanitize or wash hands before and after contact.</li> </ul>	
<b>Hygiene, Cleaning, and Disinfection</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Adhere to hygiene and sanitation requirements from the <a href="#">Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)</a> and <a href="#">Department of Health (DOH)</a> and maintain cleaning logs on site that document date, time, and scope of cleaning.</li> <li>✓ At each barn or facility, provide and maintain hand hygiene stations for personnel, including handwashing with soap, water, and paper towels, as well as an alcohol-based hand sanitizer containing 60% or more alcohol for areas where handwashing is not feasible. Provide no-touch disposal receptacles to mitigate risk.</li> <li>✓ Instruct licensed personnel to wash their hands, or use sanitizer when a sink is not available, every hour for 20 seconds and after: using the restroom, signing in, sneezing, touching their face, blowing their nose, cleaning, smoking, eating, drinking, and before/after a shift.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Wherever possible, increase ventilation of outdoor air (e.g. opening windows and doors) while maintaining safety precautions.</li> <li>✓ Whenever possible, place touchless hand sanitizer dispensers at key employee entrances and contact areas.</li> </ul>

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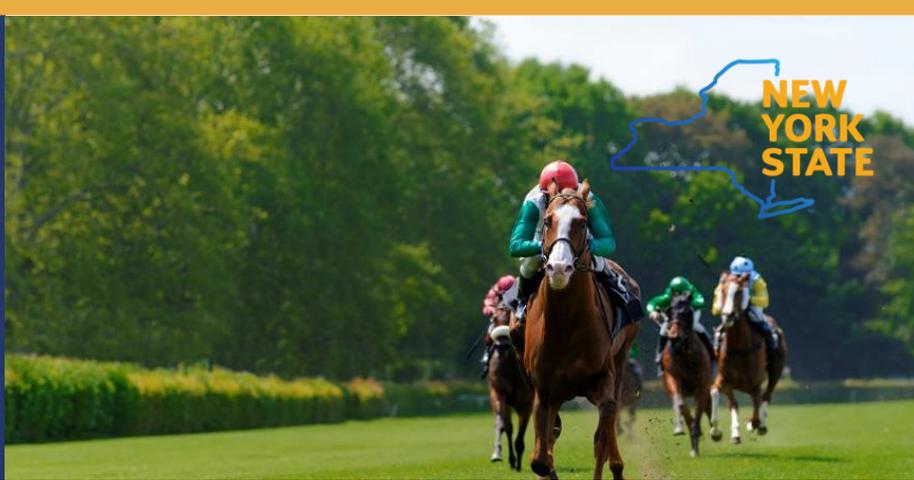
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	Mandatory	Recommended Best Practices
Hygiene, Cleaning, and Disinfection (Cont'd)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Provide and encourage employees to use cleaning and disinfection supplies before and after use of shared and frequently touched surfaces, followed by hand hygiene.</li> <li>✓ Conduct regular cleaning and disinfection of the site at least after every shift, daily, or more frequently as needed. Limit sharing of objects (e.g. buckets and hoses) and the touching of shared surfaces (e.g. railings and fences); or, when in contact with shared objects or frequently touched areas, wear gloves (trade-appropriate or medical); or, sanitize or wash hands before and after contact.</li> <li>✓ Cleaning and disinfection should be performed using Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) <a href="#">products</a> identified by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as effective against COVID-19.</li> <li>✓ If cleaning and disinfection products or the act of cleaning and disinfection causes safety hazards or degrades the material or machinery, personnel should have access to a hand hygiene station between use and/or be supplied with disposable gloves.</li> <li>✓ Prohibit shared food and beverages among employees (e.g., self-serve meals and beverages).</li> </ul>	
Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Affirm you have reviewed and understand the state-issued industry guidelines, and that you will implement them.</li> <li>✓ Post signage throughout the site to remind personnel to adhere to proper hygiene, social distancing rules, appropriate use of PPE, and cleaning and disinfection protocols. All signs shall be in English and Spanish.</li> <li>✓ Train all personnel on new protocols and frequently communicate safety guidelines.</li> <li>✓ Notify the state and local health departments immediately upon being informed of any positive COVID-19 test result by an employee.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Seek certifications from vendors accessing racetrack grounds regarding their understanding and affirmation to comply with protocols and requirements contained within.</li> </ul>



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	Mandatory	Recommended Best Practices
Communication (Cont'd)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Maintain a complete and updated list of backstretch residents, updated daily and maintained by the COVID-19 Manager.</li> </ul>	
Screening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Due to the congregate nature of housing at racetracks, all residents shall be tested for COVID-19, and any positive test shall be reported to both the state and local department of health.</li> <li>✓ Screening shall also include temperature testing. Anyone displaying a temperature over 100.4°F shall be taken to a private area for a secondary temporal temperature screening, and if confirmed, shall not be allowed entry to the property and will be directed toward appropriate medical care.</li> <li>✓ Any new residents of the backstretch community shall undergo serologic (antibody) testing and molecular testing. If antibodies are not present, residents shall be temperature tested daily for 2 weeks, screened for other symptoms, and segregated from the general population. As an alternative to the testing requirement, residents may provide proof of having completed the COVID-19 vaccination series at least 14 days prior to the in-person, on-site work.</li> <li>✓ Implement mandatory health screening assessment (e.g. questionnaire, temperature check) each day for each individual living in dormitories and/or seeking access to the racetrack grounds. (1) COVID-19 symptoms in past 14 days, (2) positive COVID-19 test in past 14 days, and/or (3) close or proximate contact with confirmed or suspected COVID-19 case in past 14 days.</li> <li>✓ An individual who screens positive for COVID-19 symptoms must not be allowed to enter the location and must be sent home with instructions to contact their healthcare provider for assessment and testing.</li> <li>✓ Immediately notify state and local health departments of confirmed positive cases and provide the individual with information on healthcare and testing resources.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Maintain a continuous log of every person, including workers and visitors, who may have close or proximate contact with other individuals at the racetrack or area; excluding deliveries that are performed with appropriate PPE or through contactless means.</li> <li>✓ Perform screening remotely (e.g. by telephone or electronic survey), before reporting to the site, to the extent possible.</li> </ul>

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#### Screening (Cont'd)

- ✓ Have a plan for cleaning, disinfection, and contact tracing in the event of a positive case.
- ✓ Review all responses collected by the screening process on a daily basis and maintain a record of such review. Identify a contact as the party for individuals to inform if they later are experiencing COVID-19-related symptoms, as noted in the questionnaire.
- ✓ On-site screeners should be trained by employer-identified individuals familiar with CDC, DOH, and OSHA protocols and wear appropriate PPE, including at a minimum, a face covering and gloves.

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