

Responsible RestartOhio

Horseback Riding



Bridle trail users are encouraged to consider these guidelines as basic starting points and to customize these protocols to address their specific circumstances and needs. Due diligence in adhering to these guidelines will help promote a safer horse-back riding environment. Horse-back riders using bridle trails and associated facilities are encouraged to wear proper PPEs including face coverings and gloves to help protect themselves and others from potential spread of the virus.

Staff and Volunteers

Mandatory

Post information to frequently remind riders to take steps to prevent the spread of COVID-19. These messages should include information about:

- **Practicing social distancing and maintaining at least 6 feet between individuals in all bridle areas and trails.**
- Staying home if you are sick or do not feel well.
- Gathering in groups of more than 10 is prohibited.
- Wearing face coverings around trail heads, parking lots, restrooms, and other high traffic areas is required for staff and volunteers.
- Wearing a mask or face covering when entering buildings or interacting with other riders, practicing good personal hygiene including washing hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, using hand sanitizer, refraining from touching eyes, nose, and mouth, coughing and sneezing into an elbow etc.

Closures:

- In accordance with current orders, close any non-essential buildings, amenities, and areas where people could potentially congregate, such as pavilions.

Maintaining Distance in outdoor spaces

- In areas of concern, mark 6-foot spacers to help riders practice safe distancing.
- In areas with a lot of cross traffic, direct pedestrian traffic to enter/exit these locations in specific ways or indicate one-way traffic wherever possible.
- Staff and volunteers must perform a daily symptom assessment*, including assessing for symptoms, taking their temperatures with a thermometer and monitoring for fever.
- Following recommendations in current orders, staff and volunteers must wear clean masks and gloves when interacting with riders and other staff or volunteers.
- Staff vehicles, keys, tools, bathrooms, and other common areas must be cleaned and disinfected after every use.
- Implement staggered employee and volunteer entry, work in assigned teams, vary arrival and departure and stagger breaks to avoid interaction or grouping among staff.

Recommended Best Practices

- Consider enlisting the assistance of volunteers to monitor restroom cleanliness, parking lot capacity, and trail etiquette. (On State Forest areas, notification to the Division of Forestry's local manager will be made if issues arise. Privately-operated horse-back riding stables should have staff available to address issues.)
- Volunteers should follow 6 feet social distancing guidance
- Staff will follow ODNR/DOF policy and directives for COVID-19 safety.
- In any circumstance, volunteers and employees involved in managing and assisting with these tasks must be provided proper training and sanitizing material to safely perform the job.

Closures:

Maintaining Distance in outdoor spaces

*Per the CDC, symptoms include cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fever, chills, muscle pain, sore throat, and new loss of taste or smell.

Mandatory

Participants

- Each bridle trail user should conduct a personal symptom assessment prior to leaving home.

Bridle Trail Crowds and Parking

- Spacing in parking areas must be maintained to ensure appropriate social distancing (6 feet).
- Monitor parking areas to avoid exceeding parking lot capacity and to prevent gathering of 10 or more.

Bridle Trail Public Restrooms

- Daily cleaning by staff or volunteers at the Ohio Bridle Trail Areas.
- Hand sanitizer and sanitizing spray, should be placed in each restroom for visitor use before and after using the facility.

Confirmed Cases

- Immediately isolate and seek medical care for any individual who develops symptoms.
- Contact the local health district about suspected cases or exposure.
- Shut down affected areas for deep sanitation, if possible.

Recommended Best Practices

- Contact local health district about suspected cases and exposures.
- Following testing, contact local health department to initiate appropriate care and tracing.
- Stay at home if you demonstrate any COVID-19 symptoms.
- Stay home if you are sick or do not feel well.
- Do not gather in groups of more than 10 people.
- Wear a mask or face covering when entering buildings or interacting with others.
- Practice good personal hygiene including washing hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, using hand sanitizer, refraining from touching eyes, nose, and mouth, coughing and sneezing into an elbow, etc.
- Bring trash bags, food, and supplies. Plan to carry in and carry out trash and other items.

- Courtesy should be given to riders that are loading and unloading their horses. If spacing cannot be maintained, riders can wait in their vehicles until adjacent riders have cleared the area.
- Recommend that guests:
 - Wear face coverings around trailheads, parking lots, restrooms, and other high traffic areas would be highly recommended for guests.
 - Ride with with members of their household and/ or in a group of no more than 10 people.
 - Ride single file to insure appropriate social distancing of 6 feet.
 - Stagger rides to begin a minimum of 10 minutes after the group in front of them.

- Recommend that bridle trail riders/users bring their own restroom supplies (e.g., sanitizer, toilet paper, etc.).
- Provide “no touch” trash disposal methods and waive requirements to register at kiosks to reduce opportunities for visitors to touch the same surfaces.
- Encourage bridle trail Riders/users to carry out their own trash.
- Encourage guests to bring all personal items for the day (e.g., food, drinks, hand sanitizer, sanitizing wipes) and do not share food, drinks, or coolers except with immediate household members.

- Work with local health department to identify potentially infected or exposed individuals to help facilitate effective contact tracing/notifications.
- Once testing is readily available, test all suspected infections or exposures.
- Following testing, contact local health department to initiate appropriate care and tracing.
- Collect guest contact information as appropriate that can be shared with the health department for contact tracing purposes.