

# Granite State Carriage Association — COVID-19 Action Plan

**Updated January 14, 2021**

This document will be updated regularly and made available on the GSCA website.

The Granite State Carriage Association (GSCA) supports and parallels the American Driving Society (ADS) COVID-19 requirements and recommendations for recognized outings according to industry standards, best practices, and State Regulations.

Outing Hosts and the GSCA Board of Directors must review the State Regulations prior to (and regularly thereafter).

Outing Hosts shall be responsible to oversee these guidelines and advise the GSCA Board of Directors prior to the outing of any possible concerns.

**REQUIREMENTS WHILE ON OUTING GROUNDS:**

## **PHYSICAL DISTANCING:**

WHO: Everyone must social distance

WHEN: At all times

EXCEPTIONS: Only three exceptions:

- Immediate Household Members\*
- Essential support personnel assisting a participant, (including riding on the same vehicle) and immediately after participating.
- In case of emergency.

## **MASKS/FACE COVERINGS:**

WHO: Everyone must wear masks

WHEN: Whenever there is the possibility of being within 6 feet of others, including while on a vehicle with other people even if they are immediate household members.

EXCEPTIONS: Only one exception - a driver driving alone while participating or warming up. For these drivers and/or riders, Masks/Face Covers are advised or at least to be within easy reach but are not required.

\*Immediate Household Members – Individuals consistently living in the same house or dwelling. Members of a household may or may not be related.

**REQUIRED** – Outing Hosts must agree to the following:

GSCA Outings must follow federal, state, and local regulations in effect at the Start Date of their outing, in addition to the requirements in this document. Regulations change frequently. 14 days prior to the outing, and again 48 hours prior to the outing, Hosts must review their current published state and local regulations and communicate with the GSCA Board of Directors that their outing is in compliance with their state and local regulations.

**Limit of Entries:** If a state or locality imposes limitations on the number of individuals allowed at a group gathering, that ordinance would guide an outing's ability to operate and dictate the number of individuals allowed at a venue. The decision will be made by the outing Host, based on state and/or local restrictions and/or GSCA Board of Directors to accept out of state entries. Outing Hosts should recognize there may be

self-quarantining rules for participants returning home from out of state. This restriction alone may severely reduce participation.

**Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):** GSCA will not provide PPE, disinfectants, or thermometers. Outing Host must provide a sanitation station on the grounds with either soap and water, hand sanitizer, or both. Participants are required to wash hands often and adhere to other sanitization practices throughout the day. It is incumbent upon them to bring supplies as well. Outing Hosts are responsible for providing PPE to their volunteers. Participants are responsible for their own PPE and that of their support members. Outing Hosts are not required to provide masks to competitors. ***The Granite State Carriage Association will reimburse all reasonable costs of hand sanitizer and wipes for the outing.***

**Restricted Access to Outing Venues:** Participants and their essential support personnel, are required to self-monitor their temperature once daily prior to participating at the outing. Any person who:

- a. has a temperature of 100.4° F (38° C) or higher or
- b. has symptoms of COVID-19 or has tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 7-10 days, or
- c. has been exposed to or has been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19 symptoms or has tested positive for COVID-19 within either the last 7 or 10 days (dependent upon certain criteria – refer to CDC Quarantine Options) cannot participate at the outing.

\*Exception: Healthcare personnel who have treated patients using appropriate medical grade PPE during the course of performing professional duties are exempted from this restriction from c.

**Enforcement and Reporting:** Outing Hosts are required to work directly with the GSCA Board of Directors before and during the outing to help ensure safety protocols (including restricted outing access, PPE management, sanitization, etc.) will be followed. The outing Host will be responsible for addressing the situations of noncompliance and any dispute mediation.

If mandatory requirements are not followed at an outing, it must be reported to the GSCA Board of Directors. These matters should be handled immediately at the outing, if possible outing Hosts will be responsible for facilitating the removal of an individual if they do not cooperate with the request. The outing Host must report instances of non-compliance to the GSCA Board of Directors. Outing Hosts are to remind all participants, and support personnel of their responsibility to report if they test positive for COVID-19 within 14 days of the conclusion of an outing. Outing Hosts must notify the GSCA Board of Directors, as well as all participants, and support personnel if any individual who was at the outing tests positive for COVID-19 within 14 days of the conclusion of the outing.

**Stabling/Trailer Parking:** Stabling/Parking flow and assignments will be dependent on each individual outing. Outing Hosts will need to configure stabling/parking to comply with social distancing requirements. Outing Hosts will also limit the congregation of groups in the stabling/parking area.

#### **Sharing:**

- **VEHICLES:** Sharing of VEHICLES will be allowed at GSCA Outings provided adequate disinfection of surfaces occurs between uses.
- **OTHER EQUIPMENT:** Sharing of other equipment should not be allowed.
- **ESSENTIAL PERSONNEL:** Sharing of support personnel riding on vehicles (Navigators, Grooms, Knowledgeable Adult Horsemen for Junior Drivers) will be allowed at GSCA Outings at the discretion of the outing Host. The identity of shared personnel must be included on pre-registration forms and each participant must complete the GSCA General Liability Release Form. \*Per GSCA insurance requirements, anyone handling, riding or driving a horse must be a current GSCA member for liability purposes.

## **RECOMMENDED BEST PRACTICES (NOT REQUIREMENTS)**

**Regulations:** Outing Hosts should recognize all regulations are a subject to change at any time and that local regulations may differ from state and national requirements. Outing Hosts should secure permissions from property owners prior to Hosting the outing.

**Venue Access:** If possible, limit access to the outing through limited, monitored points of entry and exit. All Individuals should monitor their temperature. It would be advisable, but not necessary, to have all who enter acknowledge date and time of entry and provide contact information for contact tracing.

**Participant Social Gathering:** Participant social gathering should not take place unless all federal, state, and local requirements can be met.

**Stabling Areas/Trailer Parking:** Sanitation/Biosecurity- Encourage Handwashing or Hand Sanitization. Individuals should touch only the equipment and supplies necessary for completing tasks of caring for and exercising the specific horse(s). They should not share equipment between individuals - helmets, grooming supplies, tack, etc. Water buckets and feed buckets/tubs should be in a fixed position within the stall/trailer to ensure feed or water can be provided without touching or removing these items. The coronavirus is believed to survive in the air up to three hours, on cardboard up to 24 hours, and on stainless steel and plastic up to 72 hours. The virus may persist on nonporous materials (leather bridles/saddles/halters, nylon halters/lead ropes, gate latches, door handles, spray nozzles) longer than porous materials (cotton lead ropes, saddle pads). ~ Clean communal leather tack daily with tack cleaner. ~ Disinfect stall/trailer door handles, gate latches, crosstie snaps, light switches, feed scoops, hose ends, spray nozzles, pitchforks, wheelbarrows, and other frequently handled surfaces regularly or after contact with personnel. Although there is no evidence that horses can contract or become ill from COVID-19, good hygiene should be practiced by washing hands or using at least 70% alcohol hand sanitizer after touching a horse, communal areas, or communal equipment to prouting environmental spread of the virus.

Stabling/Trailer Parking capacities should be reduced to 50% normal occupancy. Outing Hosts are encouraged to plan and publish their stabling/parking requirements prior to the start of the outing for participants and support personnel to review.

**Signage:** Signage should be posted at the outing regarding Social Distancing, Hand Washing, and other safety guidelines. Signage is available for download on GSCA website – News & Resources/Outing Host Resources:

<https://www.granitestatecarriage.org/index.php/news-resources/outing-host-resources>

**Camping:** All requirements as listed above regarding social distancing, wearing of masks, and temperature monitoring must be followed if camping is allowed on the outing grounds.

**Official Briefings:** Briefings should be conducted electronically if possible.

**Outing Registration:** Participants should Pre-register whenever possible to reduce the number of in-person transactions. Outing Hosts should limit in-person interactions with participants as much as possible.

**Bathrooms:** Surveys have noted that adequate sanitization of bathroom facilities is of particular concern to people considering participation in any capacity at equine outings. Outing Hosts should recognize it could be difficult and expensive to provide adequate sanitization of bathrooms, especially portable units.

**Paper Handling:** Anyone handling paperwork should wear gloves. Outing Hosts are advised to eliminate to the extent possible multiple persons handing papers and forms of any kind. Pre-registration and electronic forms can be an effective way to manage this.

v. 01/14/2021