



Document Control	
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Approved by	Mel Hickey, Yard Manager

## Introduction

At Snowdonia Riding Stables the health, safety and wellbeing of our team, customers and horses is of paramount importance and as a result of this, during the period whilst we have been temporarily closed, we have worked tirelessly on preparing the yard to be ready to re-open in as safe a manner as we can. We have introduced several new measures which include new cleaning regimes, physical barriers, signage to support social distancing, staff training and adapting our operating standards such as cashless payments only now accepted at the yard.

We are supported all year round by The British Horse Society, their invaluable assistance allows us to benefit from a wider pool of knowledge as they support the equine community across the UK and it is with their expert insights, coupled with the in house experience we hold, that we have been able to safely and confidently develop our reopening plan.

This plan, supported by our risk assessment, sets out what we are doing to keep everyone safe in the context of covid-19 and details the specific measures that are being taken. Given the ever-changing nature of this situation this plan will also keep changing and evolving to ensure it remains up to date, relevant and effective.

As we start to re-open our facilities, we will do so with social distancing in place and whilst it does mean we will have to do things differently and some of our usual standards will temporarily be amended, rest assured we will still be putting the safety of the horses, the team and the customers first whilst ensuring we are doing whatever we can to make your time with us as enjoyable as is possible.

COVID-19 is a new illness that can affect the lungs and airways. It is caused by a virus called coronavirus. The symptoms of Covid-19 are a cough, a high temperature and shortness of breath. These symptoms are similar to a common illness such as a cold and flu. Covid-19 is generally spread by virus particles from coughing or sneezing landing in the mouth or nose of others nearby and on some surfaces where others pick it up on their hands and transfer it to their mouth, nose or eye. The virus is believed to live outside the body on some surfaces for several hours and can live for up to 72 hours.

People and businesses are concerned about Covid-19 for a number of reasons that may include the following:

- + The scientific community is learning quickly about this virus but there is a lot they don't know yet. Uncertainty about how long it will last and how serious it will be leads to concern. On top of that, media speculation about what might happen in the future and some of the sensationalist headlines we are seeing on TV and in the newspapers doesn't help.
- + The mortality rate (number of deaths relative to the number of cases) is believed to be higher than seasonal flu.
- + This virus is believed to be more contagious than seasonal flu.
- + Vaccines that protect people most at risk of flu and its complications do not protect against all flu viruses and there is currently no vaccine for Covid-19. This will almost certainly change in the future, but not in the short term.
- + Covid-19 has symptoms like most other flu viruses, so it can be hard to know if you have it. This isn't a problem for most people because symptoms are likely to be relatively mild, but they can be more serious for some including the elderly (over 70), those with a weak immune system and those with long-term conditions like diabetes, cancer and chronic lung disease. The Government has also included pregnant women in the higher risk category.
- + People can carry the virus without realising for up to 14 days.
- + A global epidemic can be bad news for countries without such an effective health system. This is one reason why Governments around the world are taking the situation so seriously. Another reason is the damage that can be done to the UK and global economy.

The purpose of this policy is to establish the management arrangements required for ensuring that our yard has the necessary measures in place for the protection of team members and customers and for the purpose of demonstrating this to others as part of our due diligence processes.

The Covid-19 risk assessment policy should be read in conjunction with this policy.

## Policy

So far as is reasonably practicable and in-line with Welsh Government advice, we are committed to reducing the risk of exposure to Covid-19 to our team members, guests and members of the public and others (visitors and suppliers.)

The Welsh Government publish their guidance to <https://gov.wales/coronavirus>. This information and the guidance produced by The British Horse Society <https://www.bhs.org.uk/advice-and-information/coronavirus-covid-19> is the primary source of information upon which this policy and guidance documents are based.

For the purpose of compliance with health and safety law, the content of this document is designed to meet the functional requirements of the following legislation:

- + The Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974.
- + The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999.
- + The Personal Protective Equipment Regulations 2002.
- + The Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002.
- + The Workplace (health, safety and welfare) Regulations 1992.

## Implementation

This policy and guidance documents, along with all revisions, will be issued by the yard manager to each member of the team, the policy will also be available for all to see on our website <https://www.snowdoniaridingstables.co.uk/>

## Monitoring

The Welsh Government website and the British Horse Society website will be monitored daily by the yard manager, Alexander Hickey. Any significant changes that affect this policy or operating standards will be communicated to the all team members at the daily briefing.

## Training

All team members will be required to complete training prior to returning to work. Due to the nature of the business all training will be carried out in person, due to the high level of experience in the yard training will be delivered by the Yard manager. This training will cover specific processes and as a minimum the following will be covered:

- +How to wash your hands correctly
- +Covid-19 awareness
- +Social distancing
- +The importance of personal hygiene
- +Fitting riding hats

+How to assist a rider with mounting a horse

+Cleaning and disinfecting equipment

## Posters & signage

Posters and signage will be displayed throughout the yard, floor signage will also act as a visual aid for our customers and staff where there are likely to be more than one household present at any time. Signage and floor markings will be used to indicate social distancing restrictions, posters will be used to act as visual reminders to staff on customers on the importance of regular hand washing and maintaining social distancing.

## PPE

Personal protective Equipment will be provided to team members where appropriate and this is to be detailed within the risk assessment. The decision to wear PPE will be decided by the yard manager based on the risk associated with each individual task. PPE will remain our last form of defence and we will look to ensure distancing is in place in the first instance.

## Social Distancing

Guests will be advised to practice social distancing by standing at least 2 meters away from others who are not travelling within their household. This will apply throughout the yard and guests will be encouraged to give way to staff whom are performing duties and often handling horses.

## Hand wash facilities

Hand sanitiser stations will be placed at reception and on the yard. All guests will be encouraged to sanitise their hands on arrival and departure from the yard. Staff will have a dedicated hand wash facility and will wash their hands every hour, in between times hand sanitiser will be used at regular intervals of 20 minutes.

## Cleaning Schedule

The frequency of cleaning and disinfecting has been increased in all internal public spaces with an emphasis on frequent contact surfaces including, reception desks, pens, toilets, and riding equipment. All equipment will be sanitised prior to use and after each use. TO support this cleaning regime an additional 30 minute cooling off period between rides will be introduced, this will allow the staff to wash their hands, sanitise the tack and riding hats and prepare carefully for the next ride.

## Food & Drinks

At this time no food or beverage will be available for retail at the yard, we will look to reintroduce this facility with the fullness of time however at present we feel our efforts are best focused on safety.

## Payment

To reduce the risk associated with transferring the virus bank transfer or card payments are the preferred payment options and wherever possible we ask all our guests to use this method of payment.

## Guidance on travel

In line with the guidance published by the Welsh Government we will be opening our doors to our local community, we look forward to welcoming back our regular customers that reside within the local community. We will also be open for first-time customers provided they reside locally, for first-time customers proof of address will need to be provided prior to us accepting a booking. For up to date guidance on the governments travel advise please visit <https://gov.wales/coronavirus>

## Bookings

We will be accepting bookings based on the details set out within this policy. Prior to making a booking we encourage you to read through the details of this policy and follow the guidelines set out. At the time of making a booking you are required to complete a riders registration form (link below) and send it to [snowdoniaridingstables@gmail.com](mailto:snowdoniaridingstables@gmail.com).

## Rider registration form

[https://www.snowdoniaridingstables.co.uk/site/assets/files/1/approved\\_centre\\_rider\\_registration\\_form.pdf](https://www.snowdoniaridingstables.co.uk/site/assets/files/1/approved_centre_rider_registration_form.pdf)