



Government guidelines
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

To help the equestrian community get organized, here are some frequently asked questions and their answers. This information is applicable for the period from January 9 to February 8, 2021.

Q1: Is basic horse care still considered essential?

Basic horse care is an essential service. Since April 30, 2020, horse owners (and half-boarders) have received authorization from the Ministry of the Executive Council to provide this care. Consequently, inter-regional travel by these people is authorized for these purposes.

At all times, visits must be carried out in strict accordance with the health instructions issued by the Government of Quebec, including the curfew*, and, if applicable, respect the schedules established by the stable manager in order to control capacity.

Equestrian establishments must respect the established curfew, and close their doors* between 7:30 p.m. and 5 a.m.

* An exception exists for emergencies and certain essential care that cannot be provided outside of curfew hours.

Q2: If a person has to provide essential horse care during the curfew period, can they travel to provide that care? Will they need a document to show the authorities?

Yes, horse care is considered essential, so the person can come and provide this care to the horse. However, they will have to justify the situation. The use of a supporting document provided by the stable manager could be useful.

Q3: What are the guidelines for using the indoor arena? What is allowed and what is not?

Sports and recreational activities are not allowed indoors. The indoor arena can be used to provide essential horse care (ex: basic exercise, walking in hand, etc.).

[Additional information:](#)

[The basic needs of the horse include exercise, which is required and appropriate for the horse. A person caring for a horse can exercise the horse in an indoor arena.](#)

- [This person can be: the owner or half-boarder of the horse, the manager, the employee or volunteer of the stable.](#)
- [Basic horse exercise can be: on foot or in the saddle, always with the aim of maintaining the horse's good health.](#)

Q4: Are lessons allowed?

No, lessons, whether in groups or individual, are not allowed until February 8th. The only exception: Concentration Sport programs, only on days of attendance at school, are permitted both indoors and outdoors.

Q5: Are outdoor free practices allowed?

Yes, outdoor free practices are allowed. No sport or recreational activity can be carried out with people with whom you do not reside.

An equestrian center could offer a horse and its equipment for hire for free practice. This practice can only be done outdoors, without supervision. It is the manager's responsibility to assess whether the framework for this free practice is sufficiently safe.

Equestrian trails may remain open and could be used within the hours permitted by the curfew. Compliance with the health measures already in place remains, as well as the rules that the trail manager could establish. All gatherings are prohibited.

Q6: Can a stable or an equestrian club implement more severe measures than those dictated by the Government of Quebec?

Yes, if a manager feels that additional measures are necessary to ensure everyone's safety. In some cases, services may not be offered (ex: an inaccessible trail relay; further reducing the number of people who can access the stable, etc.).

Should a stable manager wish to protect his health by denying boarders access to his property, he could not, however, prevent the departure of a horse to another place of custody. Moreover, in this case, the responsibility for the basic care of each horse falls to the manager of this stable.

Q7: Do stable managers have to set up a schedule to access equestrian establishments?

In order to ensure that the reception capacity of the equestrian establishment is respected at all times, the manager can set up schedules. This volume of reception is determined based on its ability to manage traffic safely. It must be displayed, as well as a reminder of the sanitary instructions.

The maximum capacity must take into account staff and suppliers (ex: farrier) and be limited to allow compliance with health instructions.

Equestrian establishments must respect the established curfew, and close their doors* between 7:30 p.m. and 5 a.m.

**Certain essential care could be provided during curfew hours if this cannot be done during opening hours (ex: "night check").*