

# MINIMUM STANDARD HEALTH PROTOCOLS



## CHECKLIST FOR RODEO AND EQUESTRIAN EVENTS

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*Individuals may engage in, and sponsors may put on, rodeos and equestrian events. Spectators are allowed, provided that indoor venues limit the number of spectators to no more than 50% of the total listed occupancy of the venue, and outdoor venues may operate at up to 50% of the normal operating limits as determined by the facility owner. Six feet of separation between individuals not within the same household should be maintained to the extent feasible. To the extent the rodeo or equestrian event has spectators, the person sponsoring the event must ensure that ingress and egress from the venue allows for 6 feet of social distancing between individuals on entering and exiting the venue. All employees and customers must wear a face covering (over the nose and mouth) wherever it is not feasible to maintain six feet of social distancing from another individual not in the same household.*

*The following are the minimum recommended health protocols for all individuals engaging in, and sponsors putting on, rodeo and equestrian events in Texas. Individuals and sponsors may adopt additional protocols consistent with their specific needs and circumstances to help protect the health and safety of all employees, contractors, volunteers, and participants.*

*The virus that causes COVID-19 can be spread to others by infected persons who have few or no symptoms. Even if an infected person is only mildly ill, the people they spread it to may become seriously ill or even die, especially if that person is 65 or older with pre-existing health conditions that place them at higher risk. Because of the hidden nature of this threat, everyone should rigorously follow the practices specified in these protocols, all of which facilitate a safe and measured reopening of Texas. The virus that causes COVID-19 is still circulating in our communities. We should continue to observe practices that protect everyone, including those who are most vulnerable.*

*Please note, public health guidance cannot anticipate every unique situation. Participants and sponsors should stay informed and take actions based on common sense and wise judgment that will protect health and support economic revitalization. Participants and sponsors should also be mindful of federal and state employment and disability laws, workplace safety standards, and accessibility standards to address the needs of both workers and customers.*

### Health protocols for your spectators:

- Remote ticketing options are encouraged to help manage capacity limitations.
- Ensure proper spacing between patrons in the venue:
  - For venues that configure seating arrangements which are not in rows, ensure at least 6 feet of separation between other groups. No tables of more than 10 people.
  - For venues that configure seating arrangements in rows, maintain at least two empty seats (or six feet separation) between groups in any row, except as follows:
    - Two or more members of the same household can sit adjacent to one another, with two seats (or six feet separation) empty on either side.
    - Two individuals who are not members of the same household but who are attending together can sit adjacent to one another, with two seats (or six feet separation) empty on either side.
      - Alternate rows between patrons (every other row left empty), as appropriate.
  - Any other method to provide at least six feet of separation between groups of up to 10 individuals who attend the venue together. Disinfect seats and frequently touched areas before and after use.

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- For venues providing food service to patrons:
  - Do not leave condiments, silverware, flatware, glassware, or other traditional table top items on an unoccupied table.
  - Provide condiments only upon request, and in single use (non-reusable) portions or in reusable containers that are cleaned and disinfected after each use.
  - Clean and disinfect the area used for dining (table, etc.) after each group of customers depart the area.
  - Use disposable menus (new for each patron), or clean and disinfect reusable menus after each use.
  - If the venue allows customers to write down their food orders inside the venue, provide take-home pencils and notepads that cannot be used by other customers.
  - Have wait staff sanitize or wash hands between interactions with customers.
- For venues with counter food service for patrons:
  - Provide condiments or flatware only in single use, individually-wrapped items, and provide condiments only upon request.
  - Have employees and contractors follow proper food-handling protocols.
  - Disinfect any items that come into contact with customers.
- Contactless payment is encouraged. Where not available, contact should be minimized. Employees, contractors, and customers should sanitize their hands after the payment process.

### Health protocols for your employees, contractors, volunteers, and participants:

- Individuals not currently competing should remain at least 6 feet away from other individuals. Remaining in vehicles before and after a race, or in separate areas during other events, is strongly recommended.
- Train all employees, contractors, volunteers, and participants on appropriate cleaning and disinfection, hand hygiene, and respiratory etiquette.
- Screen employees, contractors, volunteers, and participants before the sporting event:
  - Send home any employee, contractor, volunteer, or participant who has any of the following new or worsening signs or symptoms of possible COVID-19:
    - Cough
    - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
    - Chills
    - Repeated shaking with chills
    - Muscle pain
    - Headache
    - Sore throat
    - Loss of taste or smell
    - Diarrhea
    - Feeling feverish or a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit
    - Known close contact with a person who is lab confirmed to have COVID-19
  - Do not allow employees, contractors, volunteers, or participants with new or worsening signs or symptoms listed above to return to work until:



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- In the case of an individual who was diagnosed with COVID-19, the individual may return to work when all three of the following criteria are met: at least 3 days (72 hours) have passed *since recovery* (resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications); and the individual has *improvement* in symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); and at least 10 days have passed *since symptoms first appeared*; or
  - In the case of an individual who has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and does not get evaluated by a medical professional or tested for COVID-19, the individual is assumed to have COVID-19, and the individual may not return to work until the individual has completed the same three-step criteria listed above; or
  - If the individual has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and wants to return to work before completing the above self-isolation period, the individual must obtain a medical professional's note clearing the individual for return based on an alternative diagnosis.
- Do not allow an individual with known close contact to a person who is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19 to return to the event until the end of the 14-day self-quarantine period from the last date of exposure (with an exception granted for healthcare workers and critical infrastructure workers).
- Have employees, contractors, volunteers, and participants wash or sanitize their hands upon entering the event venue.
- Have employees, contractors, volunteers, and participants maintain at least 6 feet of separation from other individuals. If such distancing is not feasible, other measures such as hand hygiene, cough etiquette, cleanliness, and sanitation should be rigorously practiced.
- If the event sponsor provides a meal for employees, contractors, volunteers, and/or participants, the sponsor is recommended to have the meal individually packed for each individual.

### Health protocols for your facilities:

- If 6 feet of separation is not available between individuals at the event, consider the use of engineering controls, such as dividers between individuals, to minimize the chances of transmission of COVID-19.
- Regularly and frequently clean and disinfect any regularly touched surfaces, such as doorknobs, tables, chairs, and restrooms.
- Disinfect any items that come into contact with individuals, including sporting event equipment.
- Make hand sanitizer, disinfecting wipes, soap and water, or similar disinfectant readily available to employees, contractors, and customers.
- Consider placing [readily visible signage](#) at the venue to remind everyone of best hygiene practices.
- Consider having an individual wholly or partially dedicated to ensuring the health protocols adopted by the employer are being successfully implemented and followed.