



Advice to trainers considering holding a Stable Open Day

The following advice is based on Government Guidance for people who work in hotels and guest accommodation, indoor and outdoor attractions, and business events and consumer shows. See the web links at the end of this advice for more details.

This will apply to England. For Scotland, refer to [this link](#). For Wales refer to [this link](#).

Yards must ensure that they meet the criteria to qualify as Covid secure businesses and it is essential to read the appropriate Government guidance and keep records of the steps taken to Covid Secure the yard.

In England, from 14 September, no one should visit in a group greater than 6 (unless they all live together or are in the same support bubble).

If more than one group of 6 is visiting at any time, then it is essential that the groups of 6 do not have social interaction with anyone outside the group even if they see other people they know. You will need to ensure that visitors are aware of that restriction.

Events for groups larger than 30 may take place in public outdoor spaces that are organised by businesses, charitable or political organisations, and public bodies, provided they take reasonable steps to mitigate the risk of transmission, in line with [COVID-19 Secure guidance](#) and including completion of a risk assessment. The restriction will apply in England from 14th September that individual groups must not be more than 6 people, so you may have various groups of 6 people attending but they must not interact with others outside of their own group. Any other gathering in an outdoor space must not be any larger than 30 people.

People should continue to socially distance from those they do not live with wherever possible.

You will be required to cooperate with the NHS Test and Trace system. See below.

If your yard is in a local area with increased rates of Covid-19, you should refrain from holding an Open Day. For local area case rates, contact the NTF or Dr Jerry Hill at the BHA.

Consult with staff

Any business opening for visitors would need to consult with their employees as part of the health and safety risk assessment.

Those running events following COVID-19 Secure guidelines should take additional steps to ensure the safety of the public and prevent large gatherings or mass events from taking place.

Steps to take and risk assessments

Basic hygiene measures: washing hands, maintaining social distancing, and the use of face coverings where required are still the most important measures to reduce the risk of transmitting the virus.

Assess numbers to ensure social distancing can be maintained within the space available for visitors. Limit the number as appropriate – consider timed arrivals or booking ahead.

Put steps in place to ensure that people from different groups will not have social interaction with other groups – put up signs to remind visitors to only interact with their group.

Avoid yard buildings and enclosed areas.

View horses at 2m ideally in gallops areas.

On-site transfers are best avoided, e.g. driving owners to gallops in shared vehicle. It is best if visitors travel in their own vehicles.

Consider how staff and visitors will move around – are there areas where there may be congestion – can you adjust the flow to reduce congestion. Bear in mind “pinch points”, particularly entrances and exits.

Consider where there should be one-way flow to maintain social distancing

Manage queues – for example, using barriers or direction signs.

Consider whether there are particular needs for those with protected characteristics, such as visitors who are hearing or visually impaired. Maintain parking and access for disabled customers.

Have hand sanitisers where hand washing facilities are not available for visitors as they enter the premises to reduce the risk of transmission by touch surfaces.

If visitors are bringing children, ensure that the adults are aware they are responsible for supervising them at all times and should follow social distancing guidelines.

Have clearly designated positions from which employees can provide assistance to customers whilst maintaining social distancing.

Unlikely to apply to most yards – but if necessary, work with your landlord or local authority if there are likely to be queues on public spaces. If appropriate, work with neighbouring businesses to stagger the number of people arriving.

Again, this is unlikely to apply to yards, but if any activity involves passing an object, consider putting in place pick-up and drop-off collection points rather than passing goods hand to hand (this may apply to a brochure, for example), have regular cleaning and encourage increased handwashing/use of hand sanitisers

If toilets are available, set clear use and more frequent cleaning guidance and ensure they are kept clean and clear of personal items. Where possible, seek to increase ventilation and social distancing as much as possible.

Provide written or spoken communication of the latest guidelines to employees and visitors. Consider having posters in place to remind visitors of social distancing etc.

Consider requirement for wearing of face coverings

Minimise or refrain from supplying refreshments particularly with Yard staff/Trainers

Take steps to avoid people needing to unduly raise their voices to each other as this can increase the risk of transmission. This includes, but is not limited to, refraining from playing music or broadcasts that may encourage shouting, including if played at a volume that makes normal conversation difficult. This is because of the potential for increased risk of transmission, particularly from aerosol and droplet transmission.

You should take similar steps to prevent other close contact activities and reconfigure entertainment spaces to enable customers to be seated at a fixed safe distance rather than standing.

Pre-event action

Consider the information to be sent out before the event so visitors know what to expect, and remind them not to attend if they have any symptoms or a member of their household has symptoms.

A simple health screening before they arrive would be sensible. The suggestions are

- Do you feel well today and have you had any new fever, cough or loss of taste/smell within the last 7 days?
- Have you had household contact with someone who has Covid-19 within the last 14 days?

If you are having various groups attending at the same time, ensure that they are notified in advance that they must keep to their group and not have social interaction with other groups.

Test and Trace

The opening up of the economy following the COVID-19 outbreak is being supported by NHS Test and Trace. You should assist this service by keeping a temporary record of your customers and visitors for 21 days, in a way that is manageable for your business, and assist NHS Test and Trace with requests for that data if needed. The keeping of records must be in line with data protection legislation. See this link: [Maintaining records of staff, customers and visitors to support NHS Test and Trace guidance](#).

From 18 September, businesses and other public settings where people meet socially including hospitality, close contact and leisure venues will have to record contact details of customers, visitors and staff on their premises. The details will have to be stored for 21 days

and shared with NHS Test and Trace, if requested. Pre-18 September this was advisory; from 18 September it will be mandatory. There will be fixed penalties for organisations that do not comply.

Web links to relevant Government advice:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/working-safely-during-coronavirus-covid-19/the-visitor-economy>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/staying-safe-outside-your-home/staying-safe-outside-your-home>

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