



BRITISH HORSERACING AUTHORITY

Guidelines and operating procedures for racing for all Green Zone attendees (COVID-19)

May 2020

(Last updated March 2021)

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Where sections have been updated since the previous version, this is indicated in the text

Section A: General guidance (ALL)

1. Document purpose

This document contains strict protocols, which must be followed by all attendees at race meetings held behind closed doors, from 1 June 2020 and until further notice.

These measures are to safeguard everyone's health and wellbeing during the current and continuing COVID-19 situation, to ensure that racing can continue in a safe and appropriate manner.

Anyone likely to attend a raceday in Great Britain should ensure they have read and/or understood the protocols outlined. These protocols **MUST** be followed.

This document uses UK Government guidance as its framework, as well as reflecting any variations in guidance from the Governments of Scotland and/or Wales and interprets and applies that guidance specifically to horseracing. As such, it is a supplementary document, designed to be read alongside the government guidance listed in point 4 below.

This document is aimed at **attendees** at race meetings, who will need to **follow** new and revised protocols. It is primarily aimed at attendees (generally participants, officials and racecourse staff) in the controlled "Green Zone". Separate guidance exists for the "Amber Zone" for owners and, where permitted, spectators.

It is also aimed at the **employers** of anyone attending race meetings, who will need to ensure that any such employees are fully informed of the new protocols and supported appropriately.

A separate operational plan template has been developed by the Racecourse Association (RCA), in order to assist racecourses to **set up and manage** raceday operations in line with the new protocols.

The patience and cooperation of staff is requested as everyone endeavours to work together in a safe working environment

2. Document navigation

While all attendees and potential attendees should read the whole document, to assist with navigation, we have indicated sections which are of specific relevance to particular attendees or participants, e.g. trainers, jockeys, stable staff, officials, etc.

Most sections will need to be understood by ALL attendees.

Racecourses will need to refer to the RCA Operational Plan template, to assist in developing plans suited to their own course layout and circumstances.

3. Note on updating the document

This document is based on our current understanding and interpretation of government guidance.

The COVID-19 situation remains fluid. As government guidance changes, some of these procedures and requirements may change, or vary regionally, and this document **may be subject to multiple updates at short notice.**

While every effort will be made to ensure the wide distribution of updated versions of this document, **it is the responsibility of all persons attending any raceday to ensure they are following the most recent version of the document, which can be found in the COVID-19 section of the BHA website.** Updated sections will be indicated in the Document Control table on page 4 of the document.

4. Government guidance

Government guidance provides the framework for this document and will not be reiterated in detail here. As this guidance can change, all individuals and employers should ensure they are familiar with current basic guidance. Government guidance in Scotland and Wales may differ subtly or substantially from guidance in England at any time. Anyone working at a race meeting in Scotland or Wales should ensure they are suitably aware of any differences.

Full UK government guidance on all aspects of COVID-19 can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

In particular, we draw your attention to the following documents:

(a) Outdoor work

Guidance for people who work in, or operate, outdoor working environments.

(b) Vehicles

Guidance for people who work in or from vehicles, including couriers, mobile workers, lorry drivers, on-site transit and work vehicles, field forces and similar.

(c) Offices and contact centres

Guidance for people who work in or run offices, contact centres and indoor environments.

Stage 2 guidance from the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) assists elite sport organisations to deliver a safe return to organised training for its athletes and staff, while adhering to social distancing guidelines.

Stage 3, Elite Sport – return to domestic competition guidance, was published on 30 May and covers competition behind closed doors. This defines a set of minimum standards that sport is required to meet in order to resume competition and, as such, underpins the protocols, entry requirements and screening processes defined in this document.

Stage 4, Elite sport – return to cross border competition guidance, was published on 9 July

Stage 5, Elite sport – safe return of spectators, was updated on 30 November

(e) Social Distancing

General advice to the public (which individuals are required to know and follow)

(f) Scotland and Wales

Scottish Government guidance can be found at:

<https://www.gov.scot/collections/coronavirus-COVID-19-guidance/>

Welsh Government guidance can be found at:

<https://gov.wales/coronavirus>

(g) Overnight accommodation

Guidance to hotel and guest accommodation providers in England. Additional travel advice for people arriving in Great Britain from overseas is provided in point 26 of this document.

5. Concerns about returning to racing

The various employers and contracting organisations in Racing will have their own policies and procedures in place to manage their own staff continuing and/ or returning to work in light of the COVID-19 situation. In addition, the “Elite Sport- return to domestic competition guidance”, referenced in point 4(d) above, includes as a minimum standard that all individual attendees are appraised of the risks and the mitigation plans in place, and are given the opportunity actively to opt-in to a return to competition. The medical questionnaire now includes a question to take account of this updated guidance.

If an individual has any particular concerns about returning to racing, having considered the risks and associated mitigating steps being taken by Racing, as outlined in this document, they are advised to notify their employer or contracting organisation in the first instance. If this is not appropriate for any reason, they should contact their trade/membership body or, in the case of licensed or registered personnel, the BHA at intel@britishhorseracing.com or by using the anonymous reporting line, [RaceWISE](#).

6. Attendance restrictions [UPDATED]

Until further notice, access to the racecourse will be strictly limited to those key personnel essential to running the race meeting.

The following people **only** are permitted to attend race meetings, subject to the completion of mandatory health screening and other entry requirements:

- BHA officials and staff (as required to service the race meeting, as per BHA guidance)
- Essential racecourse staff and contractors (as required to service the race meeting, as per RCA guidance)
- Medical/ambulance personnel (as required to service the race meeting)
- Valets working at the race meeting (as per RCA guidance)
- Racecourse Veterinary Surgeons (as required to service the race meeting)
- Farriers (as required to service the race meeting)
- RaceTech staff (as required to provide core broadcast and integrity services. This will include, for example, one race commentator)
- Technical staff (as required to service the race meeting, as per RCA guidance)
- One Trainer (or their representative) per yard represented
- One senior groom per yard represented
- Stable staff (registered on Staff Employee Register) of horses running in the race meeting (maximum of one groom per runner)
- Commercial horsebox drivers/transporters, where applicable
- Jockeys riding in the race meeting
- Jockey Coaches, as required
- One broadcaster/presenter (two if meeting covered by ITV) (to be arranged via RaceTech/RCA)
- Two written media journalists (One Press Association, one Racing Post - accredited journalists will be provided with more information by the RCA)

- Four photographers (two racecourse photographers, two racing photographer), to be determined by each racecourse

(Note: Additional media and photographers will be permitted to attend major meetings, subject to additional protocols. See Section J below for more information)

Owners are permitted to attend race meetings in the designated Owner Zone only, **subject to specific protocols, which can be viewed [here](#)**.

Only essential racecourse staff and those with **express permission** in advance from the Racecourse or BHA may cross between zones, in line with the [Zone Crossing Protocol](#).

Please note: Racecourses remain subject to government and/or local authority clearance and operational restrictions. If a racecourse is unable to accommodate owners, owners will be notified in advance.

All attendance restrictions will be regularly reviewed and we will continue to increase the number of attendees as soon as it is appropriate to do so. To minimise risk of infection to participants, **no individual is permitted to attend more than one fixture per day** until further notice.

Overseas attendees should note Government quarantine and/or testing requirements and exemptions, noting that these vary between England, Scotland and Wales. Please see point 26 for full information.

Drivers for jockeys and trainers will be permitted limited access to racecourses. Their attendance must be notified in advance by the Jockey or Trainer directly to BHA and they will be subject to the same training and screening requirements as all other attendees. As with horsebox drivers, jockeys' drivers must remain with their vehicle or within another area designated by the racecourse (in which social distancing can be maintained) throughout the day. Toilet facilities will be available.

Attendance lists will need to be generated and provided to the BHA as follows:

- Trainers & Stable Staff: Via NRAS after declarations close
- Racecourse staff and contractors: A template spreadsheet will be sent for completion
- Jockeys: Via jockey bookings
- Jockeys' and Trainers' drivers by the passenger
- Jockey Coaches: Via BRS Jockey Coaching Programme Administrator
- BHA Staff: Via BHA scheduling
- Media, broadcasters and photographers: Via the racecourse/RCA
- Transporters: Via commercial transport providers

7. Refusal of access

In some circumstances, individuals who were expecting to attend a raceday might be denied access by the racecourse and/or the BHA. In relation to the protocols contained in this document, it should be noted that the reasons why access may be denied include (but are not limited to):

- They are not in one of the permitted categories
- Advance documentation required has not been received
- The individual was not on the list to attend
- They have forgotten to bring their photo ID
- They or someone in their vehicle did not pass the required racecourse entry screening
- They did not complete the required training
- Any other reason at the discretion of the racecourse and/or the BHA

8. Regulatory/Rule changes applying from 1 June 2020

Participants should be aware of a number of regulatory matters and previously agreed permanent changes to the Rules of Racing, which will take effect when racing resumes.

The relevant information was communicated by the BHA via two updates issued during the suspension period.

A temporary change to Equine Influenza requirements was announced on 1 April 2020. See [here](#) for more information.

A further [update](#) was issued on 21 May 2020, including changes to Jump race classification, professional jockeys reverting to amateur status, and the application process for training partnership licences.

The BHA is also making a number of changes to the [Rules of Racing](#) and BHAGIs to cover the new and revised protocols in place following resumption.

9. Risk and compliance

By attending a race fixture, race fixture attendees acknowledge and agree that notwithstanding the risk mitigation strategies employed by the BHA and other industry bodies in accordance with Government guidance, it is impossible to eliminate all risk and there remains the potential for unintended transmission of COVID-19 between race fixture attendees. All race fixture attendees must play their part in minimising the risk to themselves and others by complying with these guidelines, racecourse terms and conditions of entry, and the [COVID-19 Requirements](#) as set out in the Rules of Racing.

The BHA and the Racecourse Managing Executive have the right to eject any attendee for any breach of the COVID-19 Requirements. All breaches will be reported to the BHA Stewards who will also be able to impose alternative sanctions including formal warnings, financial penalties and suspensions.

Section B: Medical guidance (ALL)

10. General COVID-19 protocols for ALL attendees

- Do not come racing if you have [symptoms](#) of COVID-19, are [self-isolating](#) and /or awaiting a test result.

- Do not come to the racecourse if you are not on the list of permitted and accredited attendees for that race meeting
- **Wear a triple layered face covering or mask at all times on a racecourse from the point of arrival**
- Do not touch your face, whether or not you are wearing a face covering and/or gloves
- Wash or sanitise your hands as frequently as you can, following the handwashing guidance
- Observe social distancing protocols
- Observe the recommended cough/tissue etiquette at all times
- Follow all racecourse signage and obey the instructions of staff and officials who are enforcing social distancing and other protocols
- Avoid areas of the racecourse unrelated to your role
- Leave immediately after your last race, or when you have completed your duties
- If you become unwell while racing, notify a member of racecourse staff immediately (from a distance of 2 metres). The racecourse staff will liaise with the Racecourse Medical Team to consider the circumstances and determine the most appropriate course of action, including returning home or use of the isolation room.
- If you are in an at-risk group, you should follow UK Government guidance

11. Racecourse entry screening

Screening must be undertaken by all personnel before entering racecourse premises and will follow 3 steps (Owners should refer to the [Owners' protocol](#) for details about entry screening):

Step 1 – Education Module

Completion of an online education module - *COVID-19 information for participants of the racing industry* – is compulsory for ALL attendees on racedays (no exceptions). This is hosted on the Racing2Learn website. Completion of this module will only be required once, unless there is a significant change in UK Government advice which would require an update to be issued.

This course will ensure that all attendees have a baseline understanding of COVID-19, social distancing, hand and respiratory hygiene, racecourse protocols and PPE requirements.

Information on this course can be found [here](#).

Step 2 - Questionnaire

All attendees must have completed an online questionnaire within the 7 days prior to any planned attendance at a racecourse on a rolling basis. Once a questionnaire is completed (providing the individual is passed clear) this remains valid for 7 days and will enable someone to travel to multiple venues throughout the 7-day period. The validity of the questionnaire will expire after 7 days and individuals must complete a new one before entry to a racecourse will be granted.

If your health status changes during these 7 days, you should not go to racecourse but seek advice from the BHA.

The questionnaire will comprise closed questions requiring simple yes/no answers. Questions must be answered correctly for the user to advance to the next stage.

The questionnaire will be emailed direct to proposed attendees once notification of their attendance has been received by the BHA.

Step 3 – On Course Screening

On arrival at a racecourse, ALL attendees will be required to answer further questions, as well as having their temperature recorded. They will also be required to provide appropriate photo ID (Stable Pass, Driving Licence, Passport) as proof of identity. Attendees are requested to have their photo ID ready to present on arrival at the racecourse, to avoid unnecessary delays.

Individual temperatures will be taken twice in succession, with the lower reading recorded. If on both occasions this temperature exceeds 37.8°C, entry onto the racecourse will be denied. A second thermometer should be available to confirm an elevated temperature.

If entry is denied, the individual will be advised to travel home, ideally alone. If this is not possible, a Type IIR mask will be provided and must be worn by the individual and any other passengers in any shared vehicle. They should book a [Covid-19 test online](#) as soon as possible and, if unwell and in need of medical advice, consult NHS 111. Information outlining these steps will be provided to the individual on-course.

Any individual that fails the on-course thermal screening will be required to provide the BHA with proof of a negative COVID-19 test OR they must have completed 10 days of isolation from the onset of symptoms and be symptom free (except for a cough or loss of taste, which may persist after the period of infection has passed) before re-admittance to a racecourse.

Participants are reminded that if any member of the same vehicle (including horseboxes) fails to clear step 3 all those travelling together will be denied entry onto the racecourse. In the case of those transporting horses, this will also entail the withdrawal of any horse on board. **It is strongly recommended that Racing Yards conduct their own temperature screening prior to departure.**

On successful completion of Steps 1-3, entrance to the racecourse will be permitted. Individuals will be required to wear a wristband or other form of accreditation (provided by racecourses) identifying that they have undergone the screening process. Should an individual leave the racecourse, this accreditation must be removed and returned to racecourse staff at the exit and the individual must be re-screened before coming back on site.

Data Protection

The BHA is administering the COVID-19 entry screening activities and will be the “data controller” in this regard. A COVID-19 Privacy Notice describing the BHA’s collection and use of personal data for this activity is included on the Data Protection page of the BHA website and hyperlinks to this privacy notice will be provided in all communications/ documentation collecting personal data.

In order to carry out the administering of COVID-19 entry screening activities, the BHA is reliant on all responsible organisations to provide the contact details of all relevant employees, workers and contractors. Responsible organisations should ensure that from both a data protection and general communications perspective, they have notified all relevant employees,

workers and/ or contractors that they will be sharing individuals' contact details with the BHA for the purposes of the COVID-19 entry screening activities.

Attendees should be aware that a top level red/ green entry status will be shared with the relevant racecourse so that they can allow or refuse entry, as appropriate, and the attendee's employing/ contracting organisation (where appropriate) so that they may make alternative staffing arrangements in the event of a red flag.

The BHA reserves the right to make changes to the above process if there are changes to the prevalence of COVID-19 in national, regional, or local areas.

12. What happens if I fail the screening?

As noted in point 11 above but repeated here for emphasis, any individual that fails the on-course thermal screening will be required to provide the BHA with proof of a negative COVID-19 test OR they must have completed 10 days of isolation from the onset of symptoms and be symptom free (except for a cough or loss of taste, which may persist after the period of infection has passed) before re-admittance to a racecourse.

13. Hand hygiene

Along with appropriate social distancing, hand hygiene is one of the simplest and most effective procedures for preventing the spread of disease.

It is essential that everyone takes responsibility to ensure that they regularly clean their hands using soap/water or minimum 60% alcohol based hand sanitiser, in line with hand washing guidance, which can be found [here](#).

Handwashing areas will be provided around the racecourse and at all the main transfer points. These will be equipped with minimum 60% alcohol-based hand sanitiser and, where possible, sinks with liquid soap.

Attendees must use Hand Sanitiser on arrival at the racecourse at the check-in point.

Where liquid soap and water are used, single use towels will be provided, and stocks will be regularly replenished. In most cases, these will be paper towels and an appropriate waste receptacle will be provided and regularly emptied. Hand blow dryers must NOT be used and will be turned off.

14. Social distancing

Social distancing is a key intervention to reduce transmission of Covid-19 and must be actively practised at all times. Whilst the racecourse environment will be adapted to support this, the individual must take responsibility for maintaining social distancing between themselves and any other attendees on site. Government guidance on social distancing is available [here](#)

Racecourses will be managing and reconfiguring sites to enable 2m social distancing to be achieved wherever possible.

15. COVID-19 surveillance in racing

The BHA has initiated a COVID-19 Surveillance Programme to:

- Monitor the number of local cases in the Lower Tier Local Authority Area in which racing yards and racecourses are located and compare these to national rates
- Enable members of the racing industry to report a laboratory-proven COVID-19 infection via the BHA's reporting system, to allow mapping of infection by partial postcode and role. Positive tests for COVID-19 should be reported to the BHA Medical Department.

If there is a significant increase in cases of COVID-19 in racing personnel in a specific area, advice will be taken from PHE regarding appropriate interventions, which might include raising local awareness, education, laboratory testing and/or isolation measures.

16. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and Face Coverings

The advice from Public Health England (PHE) is that the principal means to reduce transmission of COVID-19 are:

- Social Distancing
- Hygiene, both personal (specifically hand hygiene) and appropriate cleaning of workplaces to avoid transmission from surface contamination

The use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and/or face coverings is not a substitute for these two methods but is an adjunct, particularly in clinical areas or where Social Distancing cannot be maintained.

Despite the above, and despite the health screening procedures outlined in point 11, individuals with COVID-19 infection may have no symptoms and it cannot be guaranteed that the racecourse will be entirely COVID-19 free. The measures outlined elsewhere in this document are designed to minimise risk, but they cannot eliminate it altogether.

Consequently, to protect participants, appropriate PPE and/or face coverings must always be worn within the racecourse, other than when specific exemptions apply (see (b) below).

(a) Face coverings

Face coverings (i.e. "non-medical" face coverings) should be worn by personnel who are not identified as needing certified/higher grade PPE (e.g. medical and cleaning staff). The mandatory use of face coverings adds an additional layer of protection for everyone on the racecourse – further reducing the risk of transmitting COVID-19.

All face coverings should be triple layered (in line with specifications set out [here](#) by the World Health Organisation) to provide the maximum protection.

They should be worn in all indoor and outdoor areas of both the Green (infection control) Zone and Amber Zone, from the point of arrival at the racecourse and throughout the day until departure, apart from where specific exemptions apply (see (b) below). Face coverings should also be worn when travelling to and from the racecourse in a shared vehicle (with anyone from outside own household).

Reusable face coverings should be washed regularly with normal detergent at the maximum tolerated temperature. If single use Type IIR masks are the only covering available, users are reminded that these should be disposed of as clinical waste. Users should wash or sanitise their hands before and after applying or removing a face covering.

(b) Situations in which face coverings do not need to be worn

For most people, face coverings can be worn throughout the day and only removed in certain scenarios. Situations where face coverings do not need to be worn include:

- Eating or drinking
- Showering or changing
- Working alone in a car
- Taking medication
- If required to wear certified/higher grade PPE as part of a raceday role
- If asked to remove your face covering for ID checks or to receive medical treatment
- Jockeys – immediately before and during a race (see (c) below)
- Broadcast media – when broadcasting live to camera or during live/pre-recorded interviews. Strict social distancing (2m) must be maintained at all times when not wearing a face covering.
- BHA Officials – for operational and safety reasons, where face coverings may be dropped temporarily to enhance audibility and clarity of messaging:
 - Clerk of the Scales – when appropriate risk mitigation is in place i.e. a Perspex screen.
 - Starters – immediately prior to a race
 - Stewards – whilst talking during an enquiry.
- There may also be circumstances where attendees are not able to wear a face covering and are exempt from doing so e.g. due to physical or mental health reasons or disability. Verification by a healthcare professional may be required.

(c) Jockeys' face coverings during racing

The wearing of face coverings during the race is recommended. However, jockeys are permitted to pull down the face covering in the moments immediately prior to the start and for the duration of the race. For Flat races, jockeys in the starting stalls should not turn to face any neighbouring loaded jockey (i.e. face forward at all times).

On completion of the race, the face covering, if lowered for the race, should be raised before entering the horse walk, whether mounted or on foot

In the unsaddling area, once the jockey has assisted stable staff with loosening any tack and is two metres away from any other personnel, the jockey's face covering may be lowered until the jockey returns to the changing area if the jockey is breathless

While the face covering is lowered, it is essential that two-metre social distancing is maintained, e.g. if walking back to the Weighing Room with other jockeys, or if speaking to trainers or media representatives.

(d) Provision of PPE and face masks

In normal practice and in accordance with health and safety legislation, it is the responsibility of the employer to ensure that employees are equipped with appropriate face coverings/PPE, in line with the above guidance.

Face coverings are mandatory on the racecourse and when travelling to and from the racecourse in a shared vehicle (with anyone from outside own household). To meet this requirement employers will need to ensure that employees are equipped with appropriate face coverings.

Licensed trainers and other participants wishing to order these face coverings can do so direct from the BHA's preferred supplier [here](#). When placing your order, we would encourage you to order the product recommended by the BHA's Chief Medical Adviser. Delivery can take an estimated 7-10 days, so it is advised that orders are placed in good time.

Dr Hill and the PJA have also worked with face covering supplier, [Yaris Equestrian](#), to develop a snood style face covering, which can be purchased using the [online order form](#).

Alternative suppliers may be used if preferred. However, if ordering from an alternative supplier, we encourage you to ensure that the face coverings meet the required specifications set out [here](#).

Please note we now recommend mask and face coverings **without** valves as they offer superior protection to those in the area around the wearer.

Use of snoods/scarves: Please note that anyone choosing to wear a standard snood or scarf for comfort/warmth **must combine it with another layer of protection** i.e., wear a face covering underneath.

(e) PPE and face covering reimbursement scheme

Racecourses and participants who purchased PPE and/or face coverings for use on raceday can now apply to reclaim their costs via the racing industry's reimbursement scheme.

To apply for reimbursement, please download the reclaim form from the [COVID-19 section](#) of the BHA website (bottom of the page), then complete and return it to the BHA via email to PPE@britishhorseracing.com.

Please note that PPE and face coverings purchased for use other than on racedays will not be included in the reimbursement scheme and will need to be paid for separately.

17. Social Distancing Officer

Social Distancing Officers (SDOs) will be appointed by the BHA to ensure all measures are implemented and strictly adhered to at all racedays.

The SDOs will act with the full authority of the British Horseracing Authority and Racecourse Managing Executive to ensure that protocols contained within this document are appropriately followed and enforced.

- Multiple racecourse personnel will also be deployed across the racecourse site in order to support this role and will report to the SDO and to a senior member of the racecourse team, as appropriate.

- The role of the SDO is designed to be constructive and assist individuals in understanding the requirements and measures in place to ensure these can be met.
- However, the SDO will also report any breaches of social distancing requirements to the BHA Stewards, who will take regulatory action in line with the powers available to them.

18. If you become unwell at a raceday

Any individual with potential [symptoms of COVID-19](#) should notify a member of racecourse staff immediately (from a distance of 2 metres). The racecourse staff will liaise with the Racecourse Medical Team to consider the circumstances and determine the most appropriate course of action. This may include use of the isolation area (see point 19 below), or instructing the attendee to return home, from where they should follow [Government advice](#).

19. Isolation area

An appropriate isolation area will be designated by the racecourse. Potential COVID-19 symptoms should report these to racecourse staff (see point 18) and the individual may be escorted to use the isolation room for medical support and further guidance.

The location of the isolation areas will be clearly marked on any site maps and signage placed on the door of the location for identification.

Section C: Advance preparation prior to racedays (ALL, except where indicated)

This section provides details of documentation and training that **must be completed and submitted before raceday**, guidance on equipment and other preparation, as well as subjects that should be considered in advance.

20. Equine vaccination app (Trainers)

To remove the need for manual checking of vaccination records for horses, and to prevent any administrative issue, the vaccination records of all horses declared to run **MUST be uploaded to the Weatherbys Vaccination App and pre-cleared by the BHA**. This should be done by the trainer or other Responsible Person.

Trainers should ensure they have submitted a valid historical vaccination record and supporting passport pictures for all horses in training. Records for any horse entered to race **must** be uploaded well in advance of making an entry for that horse, to ensure that these can be validated by the BHA prior to raceday. This is in line with the Vaccinations Code (Section 4).

Trainers have been contacted directly with instructions about how to download, register with, and use the Weatherbys Vaccination App.

Please note, once you have uploaded the records, you will receive an email confirming that the information has been submitted. This is a confirmation of receipt only, and the information will need to be cleared by the BHA Veterinary Team before it is visible on the app. Trainers will receive an email to confirm that uploaded vaccinations record have been approved (or declined if the records do not comply with the rules). **Any queries should be directed to Weatherbys on +44 (0)1933 440077 or vaccapp@weatherbys.co.uk.**

21. Education module

As noted in point 11 above, **ALL personnel attending a raceday are required to complete an online education module.**

The course in its current form only needs to be done once, though it is possible that further versions may need to be developed and completed if Government guidance changes significantly. ALL attendees will need to have completed it successfully before raceday. **Any person who has not completed the module will be refused admission.**

The module and more information can be accessed [here](#).

22. Pre-raceday health screening

A medical declaration form is required in advance from ALL attendees. This process will be administered by the BHA. You will be contacted when the BHA has received confirmation of your attendance. See point 11.

Regular attendees at racedays will need to complete this questionnaire more than once. To ensure the information is current and up to date, the questionnaire is valid for seven days. Therefore, any attendee will need to have completed a form within (i.e. no earlier than) the seven days prior to any race meeting they attend

23. Declaration process and information requirements

For races from 1 June 2020 and until further notice, the BHA will operate a revised declarations procedure. Please note that, from 24 June 2020, **ALL races (Flat and Jump) will use 48-hour declarations.**

Trainers will be asked to supply additional information **after declarations have closed, via the Racing Administration System**, as follows:

- (a) **Estimated time of arrival for the horsebox(es)**, to accommodate the screening of staff, unloading and disinfecting protocol (one time per trainer per fixture).
- Trainers should allow more time than usual when planning departure and arrival times, to accommodate additional medical checks.
 - Please note that racecourses will review arrival times and liaise directly with trainers/horse transporters as necessary, to minimise any potential congestion in the arrival area.

Trainers will also be asked to indicate whether they intend to use a **commercial horse transporter**.

- (b) **Staff attending with the horse. This information MUST be provided in advance.** No emergency stable passes will be granted on raceday and **anyone not on the list of accredited attendees will not be permitted to enter the racecourse.** All personnel will be required to undergo the medical protocol established at the time of resumption.

Once a horse has been declared, trainers will receive an email asking them to confirm which members of staff will be attending the fixture. **This must be completed as fully and accurately as possible by 1pm on the day before the fixture.**

The online medical questionnaire (Step 2 of the screening process) will be emailed automatically to each attendee, usually after the 48hr declaration stage.

It is essential that yards complete this process as quickly and precisely as possible, as your staff will not receive an online medical questionnaire until they are formally declared as attending the race meeting.

If the trainer (or assistant trainer) is also attending, this MUST be indicated on the form. If it is not, their name will not be included on the list of those permitted access to the racecourse and they will be refused entry.

A confirmation email will be sent, including the names of staff and other details as submitted by the trainer, provided they have used the Racing Administration system to submit information.

IMPORTANT NOTE: ANY individual whose presence at the raceday has not been declared to the BHA in advance, and who therefore does not appear on the list of accredited attendees at the racecourse, will be refused entry.

The process for collating lists of, and contacting, other attendees at the raceday will be administered by the BHA. See point 6 above.

If you are unable to meet the deadline, for any reason, you must have contacted the BHA by email via the [BHA helpdesk](#) (see (d) below) before the 1pm deadline, to explain why this has not been possible.

(c) Raceday privilege and requirement requests (Formerly Virtual Declaration Desk)

The confirmation email will ask trainers to submit information relating to the horse, and requirements of the horse on raceday, via a **Raceday Privilege Request Form** on Racing Admin. Detailed instructions for how to do this are available [here](#).

The Raceday Privilege Request Form is for information that would normally be reported at the on-course declaration desk e.g. if your horse is to be fed on course, details around withdrawal processes, loading requests or assistance, going to start early, mounted early or wearing a hood in the preliminaries. There will **NOT** be a declaration desk at the racecourse until further notice.

Raceday Privilege Requests must be completed by **1pm on the day before raceday**. Any queries should be emailed to virtualdeclarations@britishhorseracing.com.

(d) Helpdesk

If you have any queries, the BHA's dedicated helpdesk can support industry participants with the new processes. The helpdesk is staffed from 8am to 5pm Monday-Saturday, and 8am to 4pm on Sundays. On weekdays and Saturdays when there is no evening racing, Sunday opening times will apply.

Industry participants can contact the helpdesk via:

Phone: 0207 152 0110

Email: covidhelpdesk@britishhorseracing.com

Note: enquiries about the equine vaccination app should continue to be directed to Weatherbys on +44 (0)1933 440077 or vaccapp@weatherbys.co.uk.

24. Selection of staff to work on raceday

All employers should ensure that they understand their legal responsibilities and duty of care to all employees when selecting staff to attend racedays, completing all necessary risk assessments via appropriate consultation with the employee(s).

Please note that, if a person fails the medical check, they will be refused entry. If they have a raised temperature or other symptoms, anyone travelling with them will also be refused entry. To minimise the risk of this, trainers are advised to check the well-being of staff before travelling, e.g. by asking staff to check their temperatures at that time.

Trainers should be aware that, while pre-booked **overnight accommodation for staff and/or horses is now being reintroduced, availability may be limited and will not be available at all racecourses** due to the need for social distancing and infection control measures. Details of specific COVID-19 protocols for overnight accommodation are outlined in point 50 below.

In line with the DCMS guidance referenced at 4(d) above, and current best practice within the sport, particular and active attention should be paid to the mental health of attendees following the resumption of racing.

All employers and managers (racecourses, trainers, BHA, contract suppliers) are also requested to send staff that are sufficiently experienced and responsible during the initial stages of resumption, to help ensure the efficient and smooth operation of new processes.

25. Maintaining up-to-date staff records (Trainers, stable staff)

As the BHA will need to communicate with all individuals who are registered to attend a raceday, all trainers are asked to ensure that the stable employee records for any individual who is likely to attend a fixture are up to date. This includes any transportation staff who may be attending the fixture who should first be added to your Stable Employee Register if appropriate. The key details to check are:

- Full, correct name
- Date of birth
- Contact details (including mobile phone and unique email address for the individual. This email address should be the same as that which they used to complete the Racing2Learn education module to ensure consistency. Trainers should please help any staff member who does not have an email address to set one up where possible, noting that the staff declaration process will reject duplicate addresses. Please contact the helpdesk – see section 23(d) if you need assistance with this.
- Next of kin details
- Ensure that the Racehorse Attendant Pass is in date

26. International attendees and GB participants returning from overseas competition

(a) Non-GB attendees at race meetings in Great Britain **[UPDATED]**

Internationally trained runners are now able to participate in all British races other than Class 5 and 6 handicaps/classified stakes on the Flat, and Class 5 handicaps over Jumps.

Internationally trained horses and individuals transporting them will be able to enter Britain, but entrants must comply with relevant [UK Government rules](#), and the protocols contained in this document.

Overseas attendees should note Government [quarantine and/or testing requirements](#) and exemptions, noting that these vary between England, Scotland and Wales. Please pay particular attention to restrictions relating to 'red list' countries from which entry into the UK is currently prohibited.

Exemptions to the general 14-day quarantine requirements on arrival in are now in place, as follows:

- (i) The quarantine requirement does not apply to anyone arriving from a country or territory covered by one of the following exemptions:
- The Common Travel Area (Ireland, Channel Islands, and Isle of Man)
 - Some British Overseas Territories

Please note that these exemptions vary across Great Britain:

- Full details and country lists for England are available [here](#).
- Full details and country lists for Wales are available [here](#).
- Full details and country lists for Scotland are available [here](#).

(ii) For those not already covered by the country exemptions in (a) above, further partial exemptions from the requirement to self-isolate apply for elite sportspersons (e.g. jockeys) and persons who provide support or who are essential to the running of certain specified events (e.g. horse grooms and trainers).

The ONLY events to which this exemption currently applies are:

- All-Weather Finals Day, Lingfield Park – Friday 2 April
- Challenger Series Finals Day, Haydock Park – Saturday 3 April
- Grand National Meeting, Aintree – Thursday 8 – Saturday 10 April
- Craven Meeting, Newmarket – Tuesday 13 – Thursday 15 April
- Cheltenham April meeting, Cheltenham – Wednesday 14 – Thursday 15 April
- Scottish National Meeting, Ayr – Friday 16 – Saturday 17 April
- Greenham Meeting, Newbury – Saturday 14 April
- Classic Trial Day & Jumps Finale Day, Sandown Park - Friday 23 – Saturday 24 April
- Guineas Festival, Newmarket – Saturday 1 – Sunday 2 May
- Derby / Oaks Trials Day, Lingfield – Saturday 8 May
- Dante Festival, York – Wednesday 12 – Friday 14 May
- Lockinge Day, Newbury – Saturday 15 May

Anyone planning apply to travel to Great Britain under the elite athlete exemption policy must read, understand, and comply with the relevant [UK Government guidance](#) and British Racing's [Requirements for International Staff from Non-exempt Countries](#). This includes the requirement

to undertake a laboratory testing programme and remain in self-isolation from arrival in GB, either as a group or individually, until negative test results have been verified by the BHA.

Overseas attendees should be aware that, while **overnight accommodation for staff and/or horses is now being reintroduced, availability may be limited and will not be available at all racecourses** due to the need for social distancing and infection control measures. Details of specific COVID-19 protocols are outlined in point 50 below.

For further logistical assistance with travelling to and from the UK, participants should contact the International Racing Bureau at <https://irbracing.com/contact/>

(b) GB participants returning from competition overseas

Current UK Government regulations require anyone returning from anywhere outside the Common Travel Area to self-isolate for 10 days on arrival in Great Britain.

To help safeguard the domestic racing industry from risk associated with international travel, eligible elite athletes and essential support staff (i.e. licensed and registered jockeys, trainers and members of stable staff) can apply for exemption status, which offers two alternatives to the 10-day self-isolation:

- **Elite Athlete Exemption – General:** Self-isolate for at least 7 days while undertaking a laboratory testing programme.
- **Elite Athlete Exemption – Frequent Private Traveller:** Undertake a more comprehensive testing and monitoring programme, which removes the need for self-isolation on return to GB.

Participants seeking exemption status will need to read and understand the [requirements](#) and complete the BHA online application form **prior to travelling**.

More information about how to apply for exemption status, including an FAQs document, is available via the COVID-19 protocols and guidelines section of the BHA website.

Please note that exemption status does not apply to return travel from [‘red list’ countries](#), from which entry to the UK is currently banned.

27. Selection of horses by trainers (Trainers)

Trainers are also asked to assist with the smooth running of racedays by avoiding sending any difficult or “fractious” horses. Further information as below. ALL declared horses should be well schooled in the stalls, to minimise time taken to load and to help maintain appropriate social distancing.

Trainers are therefore asked to consider not entering horses should they fall into any of the categories set out below.

- Needle shy
- Can't be tied up
- Unruly in pre-race
- Unruly at start
- Difficult loaders (noting that only 2 pushers per horse will initially be permitted)
- Difficult loaders (horsebox)
- Kickers/biters/difficult in Sampling Unit

- ANY signs of skin disease
- Any horse that has suffered Heat Stress (Post Race Ataxia)
- Horses requiring a traveller/companion
- Difficult to shoe

Any horse showing unhelpful behaviour will not be allowed to enter again until further notice.

Lead horses may be permitted if required to 'pony' a horse to the start for safety reasons. This is subject to approval from the Clerk of the Course and dependent on available stable capacity at the racecourse.

Companion horses may be permitted, subject to prior approval from the Clerk of the Course and dependent on stabling capacity.

All companion and lead horses must be vaccinated in accordance with the Vaccinations Code. Passports for companion and lead horses should be handed to the Veterinary Officer for checking when entering the Racecourse Stables.

Trainers wishing to send a companion or lead horse should notify the Clerk of the Course at declaration and complete the Raceday Privilege Request form on Racing Admin (see point 23 above).

Please note that **no other companion animals are permitted.**

28. Stalls tests

Stalls tests will only be available on a limited basis until further notice. Test sessions are being set up around current restrictions wherever possible, including at raceday fixtures where stabling capacity and staffing resources are sufficient for normal stalls tests to take place, or alternatively at regional locations where resources permit.

For stalls tests on a raceday, trainers must complete the following actions **no less than 48 hours prior to the fixture**:

- Contact the Clerk of the Course to register interest in completing a stalls test
- Email the BHA (covid19attendees@britishhorseracing.com) to ensure that stable staff involved with the stalls tests are registered to attend the fixture. The online medical questionnaire (step 2 of the screening process) will be emailed to each attendee.

Please note that any individual participating in stalls tests (stable staff, trainer, driver etc.) must complete the racecourse entry screening (see 11 above).

- Horses currently on the stalls test list will still be required to have a stalls test prior to entry
- Unraced debutant horses that fall within the BHA Flat Starting Initiative* that would normally be required to have a stalls test prior to entry will have that requirement waived for the current season. However, if upon first start the horse is withdrawn due to poor behaviour at the start, the horse will not be permitted to have a Stalls Test for a minimum period of 14 days after the date of referral.
- *Note: Trainers were notified in January of their current BHA Flat Starting Initiative status. If you have questions regarding your status, please contact Robbie Supple on 07771 376326.*

Increased provision of raceday stalls tests will continue to be reviewed and additional options made available.

- Due to the initial limitation to two pushers per horse, the starters may show more leniency in reporting horses for a stalls test with those horses that do not load in a timely manner. However, if a horse is withdrawn at the start for behaviour reasons, a stalls test will be required.
- Trainers should ensure all horses have been adequately schooled for the starting stalls. If there are behaviour concerns about a horse, trainers are asked to avoid sending that horse to the races during the initial resumption.

29. Preparing the horse prior to departure (Trainers, stable staff)

Horse(s) must, at a minimum, have the head, neck and muzzle area washed prior to leaving the trainer's yard to reduce potential transfer of virus to staff and handlers.

30. Preparing the horsebox (Trainers, stable staff, transporters)

The horsebox must be disinfected before and after each transport to a racecourse, or prior to loading any horse(s) and equipment:

- Areas to concentrate on for disinfecting include, but are not limited to, all handles, clips, latches, ramps, or any other areas where staff may have had, or will have contact.

31. Preparing the racing equipment (Trainers, stable staff)

Trainers should supply individual pieces of equipment per horse, including, if possible, individual girths, breast girths, and chammies (anti-slip pad) for each individual horse.

Trainers (or their nominated representative) are encouraged to contact valets prior to raceday to review any necessary equipment considerations. This will assist in maintaining proper disinfecting protocols, as well as ensuring timeliness during the weighing process.

UK Government provides guidance for cleaning in a non-healthcare setting. These guidelines are subject to change and trainers, stable staff, valets or any others required to clean the racing equipment should review the most current [guidance](#)

All equipment must be cleaned and disinfected prior to arrival on course. All equipment must be bagged per horse in a clean, single (where possible) bag, clearly labelled with the name of the trainer, the horse's name, and the race number and time.

Equipment for each individual horse must be bagged separately. Please do not include equipment for multiple horses in the same bag.

As racing equipment can be from a variety of different materials, please make sure that all equipment is thoroughly inspected to ensure it is in good working order after cleaning.

It is important that prior to and after handling or transferring any equipment, that hands are washed and/or sanitised to prevent any viral spread.

32. Checklist

All personnel attending racedays should ensure they have brought the following:

- Food/refreshments, in a cool bag if appropriate, noting that most racecourses will be providing limited catering (see point 47 below). Note that bottled water WILL be provided by the racecourse. Microwaves, fridges and facilities for making hot drinks may not be available.
- Disinfectant/cleaning materials for wiping down vehicles and equipment
- Battery-operated phone charger (optional)
- Hand sanitiser – while hand sanitiser points will be available on course, all attendees should bring a personal supply. Jockeys and stable staff may also wish to bring their own liquid soap and flannel or single use cleansing wipes.
- Face covering, as directed - see point 16
- Photo ID (e.g. stable staff pass, driving licence, passport). To avoid delays, this must be ready to show on arrival at the racecourse.

Staff accompanying horses should also bring:

- Racing equipment - prepared, bagged and labelled as per the protocol in point 31.
- Stable staff pass
- Buckets, sponges and scrapers for washing down, to avoid sharing these wherever possible, labelled with the trainer's name

Section D: Travelling to the racecourse (ALL, except where indicated)

33. Considerations for travelling

Unless there is an emergency or it is unavoidable, cars and horseboxes should travel directly from home/stable yard to racecourse. Government guidance should be followed.

Where possible, individuals should [travel to the racecourse](#) separately. Individuals from different zones should NOT share vehicles. **Where individuals travel together, they must remain in the vehicle together and must wear appropriate face coverings** (unless they are from the same household). If one does not pass the required screening and checks, everyone in the vehicle (and the horse, where applicable) will be instructed to leave the site.

While **overnight accommodation for staff and/or horses is now being reintroduced (see point 50), availability may be limited and will not be available at all racecourses** due to the need for social distancing and infection control measures. All trainers and transporters must be aware of this and have appropriate arrangements in place, e.g. if long journeys are necessary, additional staff may be required to enable this.

Section E: Arrival at the racecourse

34. Arrival times

Arrival times for anyone NOT accompanying a horse may vary by racecourse. In most cases, arrival times will be as usual but attendees should allow an additional 15-30 minutes to pass through the checkpoints. If you do arrive early, please avoid congregating with other attendees, particularly around the checkpoint areas.

Because of the need for the screening team to be present before entry to the racecourse can be permitted, entry will not be possible more than 5 hours before the first race without prior approval of the racecourse.

For horses, trainers will be asked to indicate an estimated arrival time through Racing Admin when declaring stable staff, which is completed when the horse is declared. Racecourses will review arrival times and liaise directly with trainers/horse transporters to minimise any potential congestion in the arrival area.

Trainers are encouraged to allow more time upon arrival than usual in order to clear the medical checkpoints.

35. Car parking

Car parking arrangements will vary by racecourse. Please obey any signage or instructions and follow social distancing protocols when using the car parks.

36. Medical check (for personnel NOT accompanying a horse)

All attendees must pass a medical check on arrival at the racecourse and before being permitted to enter the site.

On arrival, this screening process will involve:

- Verifying photo identification
- The individual's temperature will be taken using an infrared (non-contact) thermometer or other non-contact device. Anyone with a temperature above 37.8°C will be denied access to the racecourse (see point 11 above).
- Individuals will be asked some brief screening questions

The online education module and pre-screening questionnaire will need to have been completed prior to arrival.

Once the medical check is satisfactorily completed, the individual will pass through to the check-in point, for verification of identity and accreditation.

37. Check-in (for personnel NOT accompanying a racehorse)

Accreditation will be checked and confirmed by security personnel prior to admitting access – anyone not wearing/displaying the required accreditation will be turned away.

Please note, if an individual leaves the site for any reason (e.g. medical, horse transfer), they will need to complete the full entry process again prior to being readmitted to the racecourse

Once access is permitted the individual should follow the one-way system directly to their workstation.

38. Medical check and check-in procedure (personnel with horseboxes or who are accompanying horses)

A medical check will be conducted on all personnel before the horsebox is granted entry into the secured zone. All personnel should exit the vehicle during the medical check, unless advised or agreed otherwise.

- Drive up to medical checkpoint and present stable pass/accreditation.
- If not on the personnel roster, entry into the facility will be denied. No emergency passes will be allocated.
- Medical check and accreditation checks will be conducted.
- Once cleared, horsebox can proceed to unloading area.

Please note that, if a person fails the medical check, they will be refused entry. If they have a raised temperature or other symptoms, anyone travelling with them will also be refused entry. To minimise the risk of this, trainers are advised to check the well-being of staff before travelling, e.g. by asking staff to check their temperatures at that time.

39. Withdrawals and non-runners (Trainers, officials)

Information will be provided to trainers or their representatives on the protocols for notifying officials of any non-runners or withdrawals. In most cases, an EWIO should be informed, who will then inform the Stewards. All horses are considered declared for the day once scanned into the stable yard.

40. Horsebox drivers remaining on course (Trainers, stable staff, transporters)

If horsebox drivers (i.e. those who are not part of the team working with the horse at the fixture) remain on the course, they must stay with their vehicle or in a rest area designated by the racecourse. Toilet facilities will be available.

If the horsebox driver leaves the racecourse, they will need to complete the relevant checks as outlined above before being readmitted and should allow sufficient time to do so. If possible, advise the Stable Manager of the expected return time.

41. Unloading and stable yard protocols (trainers, stable staff, officials)

At most racecourses, there will be one entrance to the unloading area of the stable yard. **ONLY staff with the appropriate accreditation will be permitted to enter the stable yard.**

- As a general principle, access to the racecourse stables will be for stable staff (or trainer/representative when accompanying the horse), EWIO, vets and relevant racecourse staff ONLY.
- Trainers or their assistants will be generally be permitted access only where the racecourse adopts saddling in the stables. Where this is not the case, any trainer who requires access to the stable area for horse welfare reasons will have to be approved by the Clerk of the Course or their deputy.

Please see point 27 above for information and guidance relating to companion horses.

The entrance of horseboxes into the loading area will be staggered to minimise congestion within the area.

- The Stable Manager or other designated individual will facilitate traffic flow in the unloading area. A one-way system will be in operation and must be closely observed. Directional signage will be in place to support this.
- Where the stable entrance cannot allow horses to come in and out at the same time whilst maintaining social distancing, a priority system will be in place, with a clear 'waiting area' for horses who do not have priority.

(a) Unloading procedure:

- Once arriving in unloading area, proceed to the designated unloading ramp/area.
- Stable staff should be prepared to show their Stable Pass.
- There will be a specified area for the horse check-in.
- Stable staff will unload horse and present at the horse ID checkpoint and stand on the horse's offside while the EWIO scans the horse's microchip and checks identification.
- Once cleared, the stable staff will be advised where to take the horse.
- Once the horse is secured in the stables, the stable staff must quickly retrieve their equipment from the horsebox and place it next to the horses' stable box.
- If the horse is being fed in the stable, the Stable Manager or EWIO must be informed.
- Equipment transfer protocols must be followed (see point 42 below)

(b) Washdown procedure:

- After horse and equipment are unloaded, horse can be taken to washdown area, taking note of social distancing measures and ensuring that all equipment is wiped down prior to and after use.
- Showers in horse washdowns may be used and partitions will generally be in place to prevent spray. Where this is not possible, alternate showers should be used.
- Buckets, sponges and scrapers can be used, and it is **recommended that trainers provide these to be used by their own staff.**
- The Veterinary Officer (VO) will notify stable staff if their horse will be subject to a pre-race check. These will follow normal guidelines, to include trot ups and palpation if required. Palpation will be conducted in the stable box with the horse loose or loosely held by the VO, if it is safe to do so.

(c) Other stable yard information:

- Stable bedding will be provided in line with the racecourse's standard policy. No additional bedding will be provided.
- Stable staff will be encouraged to remain in the vicinity of the horses in their care throughout the day. The racecourse will provide break areas, which must enable appropriate social distancing to be maintained. Ideally break areas will be outside, although inside areas will also be provided for use if weather conditions require.
- Where day changing facilities are provided for stable staff, use must be staggered to enable social distancing. Shower facilities may not be available.

42. Racing equipment & colour bag transfer procedure (trainers, stable staff, valets, jockeys)

Equipment and colour bag transfer points will be established. Hand sanitising and/or handwashing is required between all transfers or activity involving the handling of equipment.

These protocols are continually under review and may vary across courses, with one possible scenario as follows:

- Stable staff member arrives at equipment transfer point (note, this may be situated outside of physical weighing room. Signage will be in place)
- Stable staff member drops labelled bag of equipment per horse per race and steps away
- They will then be collected from the relevant area by the valets (or the individual jockey if they do not have a valet).
- Valet retrieves equipment, sorts as needed, and places in designated area, separated by race
- Jockey arrives, picks up specified equipment for race, weighs out and places equipment in designated area for stable staff to retrieve for saddling

After use, the colour bags will be returned via same process throughout the afternoon.

43. Farrier services

Farrier services will be available at the racecourse as usual.

Section F: Racecourse set-up and facilities (ALL, except where indicated)

44. General set-up

Attendees should note that the specific operation of protocols and the facilities available will vary from racecourse to racecourse, due to differences in e.g. racecourse layout and resourcing.

Attendees are encouraged to check on NRAS, if possible, where racecourses will advise of any changes to the core facilities and processes outlined in this document. If in doubt, check with the racecourse direct prior to travelling.

Racecourses will have zoning arrangements set up. If a zoned approach is adopted, only the correct accredited personnel will be able to gain access to each area. As a minimum, the accreditation provided for the stables area will be clearly distinguishable from other forms of accreditation.

One-way systems will be in place across racecourses wherever possible, to limit crossover of individuals.

The racecourse perimeter will be appropriately secured. Access will only be possible via designated entrance points. All other entrance points will be physically secured to prevent unauthorised access, with enhanced security provision in place to support this.

45. Technology

Attendees should note that, for reasons of hygiene, power sockets and cables will not be available for general use (I.e. for any purpose not integral to the operation of the raceday).

Attendees will not, for example, be permitted to use racecourse power sockets and/or cables to charge personal mobile phones or other devices and are advised to bring battery operated chargers, and/or to charge in vehicles when travelling, if this is likely to be required.

46. Other equipment

All equipment being brought on to site to be used by multiple individuals must be disinfected prior to arrival. All contractors will be responsible for disinfection of their own equipment in line with their procedures.

For disinfecting of racing equipment, see point 31 above

Where an individual brings equipment for their own use (e.g. BHA officials' laptops), they will be responsible for the disinfection of these to their own satisfaction. Individuals must not use another person's equipment without first ensuring that this has been disinfected.

- The racecourse will make a supply of single-use disinfectant wipes available in key areas for equipment disinfection

47. Catering

Before consuming any food, hands must be washed or sanitised

Attendees should note that most racecourses are offering a limited supply of pre-packaged food, with some offering hot food for takeaway, subject to local risk assessment. However, attendees may wish to bring their own refreshments.

Bottled water WILL be provided by ALL racecourses. Drinks must NOT be shared.

Fridges may not be available to store food, as this would require multiple individuals to repeatedly touch door handles. Any items which need to be kept cool must be brought in an appropriate cool bag.

Where chilled drinks cabinets are in place in jockeys' changing areas, these will be in use. Many racecourses will make other arrangements for chilled drinks for jockeys. However, jockeys are advised to bring cool bottles with them if possible, or to check with the racecourse prior to travelling.

It should also be assumed that **microwaves will not be provided**, therefore individuals should be advised not to bring food which requires heating.

Individuals bringing their own food should consider potential food allergies of others within their area (e.g. potential nut allergies) and select food accordingly.

Facilities to make hot drinks on site will not be provided unless the racecourse advises otherwise. Racecourses will provide served hot drinks. Individuals may bring hot drinks with them in an appropriate container for their own consumption only. Alcohol is not permitted

The racecourse will identify areas for people to sit and eat their food during breaks. These areas will need to maintain appropriate social distancing and will be regularly cleaned. Ideally

break areas will be outside, although inside areas will also be provided for use if weather conditions require.

Extra rubbish bins will be provided and must be used by attendees, to maintain site hygiene

48. Radio and battery collection/transfer

Radios and spare batteries will be collected from an area outside the Weighing Room where possible.

All radios must be wiped down with disinfectant wipes by the broadcast engineer before use and again on return.

Where radios are to be allocated directly from the broadcast room there will be a clear procedure for collection and return. Social distancing must be maintained by those waiting to collect radios and signage/demarcation of 2m waiting zones will be used to assist with this process. The broadcast engineer will maintain a record of radio allocation and individuals will not be required to sign for these.

49. Walking the course (Trainers, jockeys, officials)

The racecourse will establish a clear one-way route for access to the course for any trainer, representative or jockey wishing to walk the course before racing. Anyone wishing to walk the course should notify the Clerk of the Course.

- Social distancing must be maintained during course walks.
- Security will be in place on access and egress points and around the course to ensure that unauthorised personnel do not attempt to use this route to gain access.
- Anyone walking the course **must wear the accreditation provided** and show this to security personnel when requested. Failure to do so could result in removal from the site.

50. Overnight accommodation (Trainers, stable staff)

Trainers should be aware that, while **overnight accommodation for staff and/or horses is now being reintroduced, availability may be limited and will not be available at all racecourses** due to the need for social distancing and infection control measures.

Racecourses offering overnight accommodation will be applying the following protocols:

- All accommodation must be booked with the racecourse in advance and by **no later than 12noon on the day before the fixture** (24-hours before the fixture)
- Accommodation will be available on a first come, first served basis
- Only single accommodation with ensuite facilities will be available, though twin accommodation with ensuite facilities may be provided for those from the same household
- No accommodation with shared facilities (i.e. showers etc) or dormitories will be provided

Health screening protocols, as advised by the BHA, must be followed. On the morning of the raceday, the course will be cleared and **all staff who have stayed at the racecourse overnight will be required to re-enter the course via the medical checkpoint**, which will open no earlier than 5 hours prior the first race.

- Canteens may be available for limited eat-in or takeaway food. Please check in advance with the racecourse.

Accommodation provision will operate in line with government guidance around hospitality and hotels, which may vary between England, Scotland and Wales. Accommodation provision will be kept under review as guidance evolves.

All trainers and transporters should be aware of overnight accommodation restrictions and have appropriate arrangements in place when travelling or sending staff to racecourses where accommodation is not available, e.g. if long journeys must be undertaken in one day, additional staff may be required.

51. Betting facilities

There will be no betting facilities available in infection control (Green) Zone until further notice. Owners will have access to betting facilities in the Amber Zone.

52. Sponsorship materials

Sponsorship considerations on the gates, parade ring and on winners' blankets/rugs will be reviewed by the racecourse.

In line with the Sponsorship Code of Conduct, face coverings worn by the horse attendant (between pre-parade ring and unsaddling) should be free of all sponsorship and advertising. This includes advertisements for their yard. This does not apply to other members of staff, unless acting as a horse attendant.

Section G: Specific areas of the racecourse

53. Jockeys' Changing Room (Jockeys, valets)

It will be essential to maintain social distancing in the jockeys' changing rooms. The configuration of the changing room will enable 2m social distancing to be maintained at all times. This may be facilitated by the use of taped areas, partitions, and increased supervision.

This will inevitably reduce the amount of space available in the jockeys' changing room, and on some racecourses, further individual changing areas may need to be provided.

Racecourses will ensure that any additional/overflow changing space has all necessary facilities and easy access to the weighing room (without necessarily being immediately adjacent). Separate areas for male and female jockeys will continue to be provided and a suitable area will be provided for valets, including an area suitable for the disinfection of equipment.

Limited catering will be provided for jockeys, unless advised otherwise in advance by the racecourse. Jockeys may bring food with them to meet their own requirements.

Where chilled drinks cabinets are in place in jockeys' changing areas, these will be in use. Many racecourses will make other arrangements for chilled drinks for jockeys. However, jockeys are advised to bring cool water bottles with them if possible, or to check with the racecourse prior to travelling.

The saunas will NOT be available for use. Jockeys should liaise with the PJA nutrition team for alternative weight management advice.

Showers are available for jockeys. Jockeys may also bring their own liquid soap and flannel or single use cleansing wipes, which must be disposed of in rubbish bins provided after use.

On-course physiotherapy provision is available and will be provided, where it does not compromise the health of jockey or physiotherapist.

Self-induced vomiting (flipping) is prohibited at all times on the racecourse and any instances will be referred to the BHA for investigation.

54. Weighing Room & weighing procedures (Jockeys, valets, officials)

Jockeys must weigh in as required and note that some racecourses may be using a different weighing room location.

Access to the weighing room will be strictly limited to BHA officials, relevant racecourse staff (this will include cleaning staff and broadcast personnel who will require access to the broadcast room), valets, and jockeys ONLY.

If particular information needs to be passed to the Stewards/Starters/Scales, this should be done in advance by email to the relevant officials where possible.

- Where it is necessary for a trainer or representative to enter the weighing room (e.g. to confirm a jockey change or to attend a Stewards' Enquiry) they must be granted permission to do so by the Clerk of the Scales or Weighing Room security. Once all relevant business is concluded they must leave this area immediately.

All furniture and workstations will be arranged so that 2m social distancing can be maintained. The Weighing Room will be marked out with zones to remind personnel of the social distancing rules and there will be clear one-way routes of travel in, around, and out of the area.

All saddles and jockeys' equipment should be disinfected on arrival on site either by the valets, who will provide confirmation to each individual jockey to state this has been completed, or by the jockey themselves. Disinfectant wipes should be provided by the valets for this purpose.

The requirement to present declared headgear (blinkers, visors, etc.) to the Clerk of Scales has been waived. Trainers will be responsible for ensuring any declared headgear is present on the horse when it is brought into the parade ring.

Number cloths will be laundered by the supplier prior to provision to the racecourse. For each race, these will be laid out in an agreed area in or near the Weighing Room. Jockeys will then collect the number cloth they require (and any speed sensor equipment) and must not touch any others. Jockeys should then return the number cloth to a designated receptacle (location dependent on the individualities of each racecourse).

Weighing in and out will be carried out as normal in the Weighing Room, with social distancing protocols to be followed. Some racecourses will place Perspex screens in front of the Clerk of the Scales position.

- An additional table will be provided next to the scales on which jockeys can place their hat, whip, and any other equipment that would usually be placed in front of the Clerk of the Scales.
- A series of clearly designated areas, in view of the Clerk of the Scales, will be demarked, from which saddles, weight cloths, number cloths etc can be passed from jockeys to trainers or their representatives after weighing out.
- Any lead used by jockeys must be cleaned with disinfectant wipes by the valets following each race prior to further use.

55. Stewards' Room (Officials, trainers, jockeys)

Access to the Stewards' Room will be strictly limited to relevant BHA officials and individuals involved in enquiries.

- All furniture and workstations will be arranged so that 2m social distancing can be maintained.
 - Where this is not possible, an alternative Stewards' Room will be provided. This will:
 - Have suitable access to the Weighing room (without necessarily being immediately adjacent)
 - Have 60% alcohol-based hand sanitiser and/or hand washing station

Staff briefings will be conducted remotely.

56. Stewards' Enquiries (Officials, trainers, jockeys)

Provided social distancing can be maintained in the Stewards' Room, enquiries will be conducted on the racecourse in the usual manner wherever possible.

On rare occasions when enquiries are required and social distancing cannot be maintained, the Stewards will have agreed beforehand how to proceed, finding a solution which maintains the requirement that all parties should be able to hear all the evidence given by all the witnesses. This may require the use of an additional room, using video conferencing facilities and racecourses, which will need to have such a room available. A BHA Official will be present in this room throughout the enquiry. Other matters may be referred to the BHA for further consideration.

Section H: Pre-race, start & in-running procedures

57. Saddling procedures (Trainers, stable staff, officials)

Ideally, all horses will be saddled in the same area (i.e. stable box or saddling area of the parade ring), though the exact location will vary by racecourse.

The trainer or their representative will retrieve equipment from the designated area (in or near the weighing room) and proceed to saddling area. Note that prior to or after handling or transferring any equipment that hands must be sanitised or washed.

When tacking the horse for the race, social distancing must be maintained by keeping one person on either side of the horse. Face to face exposure must be avoided and hands should be washed or sanitised afterwards.

Any surface likely to be touched by the jockey must be wiped down with disinfectant wipe or similar – in particular, the reins and neck strap.

For any given race, horses will be required to leave the stable area together and arrive in the parade ring together. This is regardless of whether they are saddled in the stable yard or parade ring.

Stable manager or designated person will determine the time needed to move from the stable yard to parade ring area and will notify stable staff of the timetable.

When departing from the stable yard, stable staff will proceed to horse checkpoint and stand on the offside while the EWIO approaches and scans the microchip for identification.

58. Parade ring (Trainers, jockeys, stable staff, officials)

Once in the parade ring, horses may be required to walk in a particular order or walk in designated areas to facilitate social distancing measures. This will depend on parade ring layout and will vary by racecourse. Please follow the instructions given.

Other than those leading up horses and certain officials, only the jockey and the trainer/representative are permitted to access the parade ring for each race.

At all times, any personnel in the parade ring should be mindful of the social distancing measures in place

The parade ring will be divided into 'zones' or have social distancing markers in place. Where the parade ring cannot be sufficiently divided to enable social distancing, trainers will not be permitted access to the parade ring and will need to brief jockeys in advance.

If one trainer has multiple runners, they must position themselves so that their 'zones' are appropriately located to speak to each of the jockeys whilst maintaining social distancing

Medical and veterinary teams must be available outside the parade ring, and able to access without delay in the event they are required.

Armbands for stable staff may be used where appropriate to do so.

59. Legging-up (Trainers, stable staff, jockeys)

When legging-up, normal procedures may be followed or a designated person(s) may leg up all jockeys. Hands of those legging-up jockeys should be washed or sanitised immediately before and afterwards, and a triple layered face covering should be worn.

Once mounted, jockeys must proceed to the start as soon as possible.

60. Going down & starting procedures (Jockeys, trainers, officials)

Jockeys will need to take responsibility for maintaining social distancing on the way to and at the start

Once at the start, the Starter and Assistant Starter, and stalls handlers when applicable, will perform routine girth/equipment checks as needed, making sure to wear face coverings and to use hand sanitiser between horses.

Staff or trainers will be permitted to assist at the start ONLY if prior approval has been received by the Starter. In these circumstances, staff must get to the start on their own (no transport will be provided by the racecourse) and ensure that any post-race responsibilities are not compromised (i.e. they are present at the unsaddling area when required).

Trainer (or representative) must make their own arrangements to collect equipment removed at the start (red hoods, ear plugs, etc), as Starters will not be returning to the weighing room.

See point 28 above for information relating to stalls tests and difficult loaders.

Loading procedures are as follows:

- Staggered loads, as usual
- Maximum of two pushers, unless wearing enhanced respiratory protection
- Stalls staff should remain in gate area except for facilities breaks. In bad weather, a dry location on-course must be designated with sufficient social distancing measures
- Handlers will be allowed in stalls to assist the horse during the start, but must wear a face covering and avoid face to face contact where possible. Handrails must be wiped down if used.

Hygiene

- Hand sanitiser should be used between each start or in between loads (i.e. sanitiser available at both ends of gates)
- Blindfolds should not be reused during the same load
- Any radios should be wiped and cleaned between use and not shared amongst personnel

61. In-running (Jockeys, officials)

While races will be run in the normal way, jockeys are encouraged to be especially mindful of continuing pressures on medical and health services, and to avoid taking unnecessary or avoidable risks, which may endanger themselves or others.

There will be some slight variations to medical and veterinary processes. These are outlined in the RCA Operational Plan for use by racecourse medical and veterinary personnel.

Section I: Post-race procedures (ALL, except where indicated)

62. Unsaddling & post-race checks (Jockeys, stable staff, officials)

On completion of the race, the jockey should proceed to the unsaddling area (or Winners' Enclosure, where applicable) and await pick-up by stable staff.

Procedures for the Winners' Enclosure and unsaddling area(s) for other runners will vary by racecourse.

Access to the Winners' Enclosure and unsaddling area(s) will be limited to one member of stable staff per horse and/or the trainer/representative. The grounds team, vets and drivers, as well as the normal equine response team, will be on hand in equine areas post-race to assist with cooling/any other issues.

Once the horse is secured, jockey will dismount and unsaddle the horse while stable staff will maintain as much distance as safely possible, including standing on the offside, if safe.

Stable staff should then proceed to cool-down area/stable yard, or to the sampling unit if directed. For sampling process, see point 65.

If any post-race examination of the horse is ordered by the Stewards, horses should be auscultated on opposite side from handler/ at arm's length. Visual inspection will be made unless palpation can safely be achieved.

Stable staff must wash or disinfect their hands as soon as possible after collecting the horse, which in most cases will be when washing down the horse after the race (See point 41 for information on showering/washing down facilities). Tap/bucket handles should be wiped down before and after use.

At the conclusion of the race, the trainer or representative can retrieve any equipment at the designated transfer area, being sure to follow the transfer protocols.

63. Weighing in (Jockeys, officials)

Jockeys should return to the weighing room immediately after the race to weigh in, whilst maintaining social distancing. Entry will be controlled. Jockeys should leave the weighing room as soon as they have weighed in.

64. Trainer and media debriefs (Trainers, jockeys, media)

Ideally, the post-race debrief between the trainer and jockey should take place by telephone after the race. If not possible, the debrief should be done in an area designated by the racecourse, observing social distancing.

If a media debrief is required (usually only after major races), this will take place in a designated area with appropriate equipment to allow remote interviews to take place. For more information on media protocols, see Section J.

65. Equine testing/sampling procedures (Trainers, stable staff, officials)

The usual raceday requirements for equine sampling will remain in place, requiring a Catcher, SUSAS, EWIO to manage the sampling process.

Social distancing must be observed where possible in the Sampling Unit, aided by designated or marked areas where applicable.

Bloods may be taken if no urine is obtained within a specified period.

The sampling process will be as follows:

- EWIO identifies horse using microchip protocol with stable staff on the offside of the horse.
- Stable staff should ideally remain outside the Sampling Unit during the sampling process. A door may be left ajar to facilitate the witnessing of collection if desired.
- Witnessing is done inside Sampling Unit while social distancing is maintained, e.g. through the use of marked out areas on the floor or establishing stations (i.e. witnessing area, split sample area)

- Laminated sheets outlining the sampling process will be displayed to assist stable staff
- Signing: GRABBA will be placed on table, enabling stable staff to sign. GRABBA is then disinfected.

Section J: Broadcast, media & photography protocols (ALL)

66. Media attendance

In line with the stated strategy of minimising access to race meetings to essential personnel only, the following maximum limits will be placed on media attendance:

- 2x written media (1x Racing Post, 1x Press Association accredited)
- 4x photographers (2x racecourse, 2x racing photographer)
- 1x on-screen reporter (2x on-screen reporter if meeting covered by ITV).

At any fixtures when PA and/or Racing Post choose not to take up one or both slots, any available slots will be offered to other HWPAs members.

The above are the standard attendance limits, which apply to most meetings. Additional media will be permitted to attend major meetings (classified as any raceday which features a Group or Grade 2 race or above), subject to additional BHA protocols.

For major meetings, the following attendance limits will apply:

- Media: Up to 8 spaces, including the usual 1x Racing Post and 1x Press Association slot, plus additional media.
- Photographers: Up to 4x spaces from the HWPAs pool and 2x agency photographers (excluding racecourse photographer(s)).
- Broadcast & Radio: Minimum number for rightsholders to fulfil broadcast requirements

Broadcast arrangements, including attendance of a presenter and commentator, will be arranged via RaceTech and the RCA.

ALL broadcast, media and photography attendees will need to follow the same screening processes, medical checks and education requirements as all other attendees. All media attendees must comply with requirements relating to wearing of face coverings and social distancing, e.g. when interviewing participants post-race.

This will continue to be regularly reviewed.

67. Allocation of places

The two written media slots will be allocated to the Racing Post and Press Association. As noted in point 66 above, where these slots are not taken up, they will be offered to other HWPAs members.

Both outlets will be required to outline in advance to the RCA a list of journalists which will be utilised for racecourse attendance, in order that screening can be carried out on this pool of journalists.

For photographers, the spaces will be allocated to 2x racecourse photographers and 2x racing photographers. Only existing RCA/racecourse accredited photographers will be considered for

the latter slots. Again, a pool of accredited photographers should be provided by the HWPA, along with specific details of proposed attendance at each fixture.

For festival and significant weekend meetings, racecourses will work with relevant media outlets to determine allocation of places, up to the maximum. Photographers at these meetings will be selected from the HWPA pool.

68. Media debriefs

For fixtures where there may be additional press interest (e.g. fixtures with Pattern Races) a designated area will be identified for a media debrief.

- Appropriate equipment to allow remote interviews to take place (e.g. via Zoom or similar) will be provided by the racecourse. A member of the racecourse team will be on hand to coordinate connections. In addition, a racecourse representative will join the remote session and act as facilitator.

Each racecourse will liaise with RaceTech and their broadcasters to confirm the arrangements.

- A member of the racecourse team will be the designated point of contact with broadcasters and will coordinate interview requests, which will be arranged, if possible.
- Photographers will be required to observe social distancing protocols and all other relevant protocols (e.g. access restrictions) on raceday.

Section K: Leaving the racecourse (ALL)

69. Departure process

(a) All personnel

- On completion of their role, each individual should leave the racecourse as soon as practically possible.
- A one-way system will be in place, so individuals can return to their vehicle without crossing paths with others. A hand washing station will be provided on exit.
- Individuals who finish at the same time should return to their cars either separately or observing social distancing.
- Accreditation for the raceday must be removed by the individual and returned as instructed by racecourse staff. Accreditation cannot be retained for future use.
- Any individual who has left the site must complete the arrival and screening procedures again prior to readmittance.

(b) Horses and personnel accompanying horses

Personnel accompanying horses should follow the procedure outlined above AND

Horsebox will need to proceed to checkpoint to verify staff departure.

Section L: Claiming and Selling races

70. Claiming and Selling race collection process

While off-course claims continue to be permitted for all claiming races, to comply with screening requirement, claimed horses must be collected no later than one hour before the final race of the day.

When an off-course claim is successful, the trainer (or their representative) should immediately contact the BHA's COVID-19 helpdesk (0207 152 0110) to ensure they are registered to attend the fixture and to go through the relevant pre-screening.

On arrival at the racecourse, they should contact the Clerk of the Course to make arrangements for the horse to be collected.

Auctioneers for selling races must be included on the racecourse attendance sheets (see point 6, Attendance restrictions).